

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

S O C C E R

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NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE COVERAGE





The search for the next coach of Australia's senior team continues. Apparently David Hill, Chairman of Soccer Australia and Basil Scarsella, one of the Commissioners of SA, flew out to Europe earlier this week.

It has been speculated that Terry Venables is in their sights. Venables would be an admirable choice. As a part-time boss of the Socceros he could probably remain as Director of Football with Portsmouth and fight his court cases while carrying out his duties with the European based Aussies.

As to a salary. Well if the new coach was only part-time then Australia could probably afford that.

Seems like Henry Wiggler's argument for the duties to be split may just have struck a chord with SA. It's just the sort of lateral thinking that Hill seems to believe in.

While taking a different tack to Ray Gatt of 'The Australian' it is good to see him also speculating about both Europe and Australia based coaches. However, he appears to be stuck on the Raul Blanco, Les Scheinflug, Zoran Matic selection.

Why not David Ratcliffe? He is having success with UTS Olympic right now and at Wollongong, despite limited resources, he had them competitive.

Regardless of the choice or choices they face a mighty challenge simply because many of the potential representative players are Europe based.

If a duo is appointed then who is the Coach in Charge? The CIC and his assistant will by definition see different players in a different perspective to each other. This is natural because of their backgrounds and experiences.

Who will set the style of play? Come to think of it - what style does Australia use? South American - not really. Italian - no. Dutch - no chance. English - occasionally.

Australia does not have a player capable of spraying out 30-40 metre passes with unerring accuracy. There is no Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Moore or Bobby Charlton.

Is there an Australian player who can cross the ball precisely every time, from out on the left or right flank with precision into the opposition danger zone? A George Best. Maybe a Maradona.

Even if one player could do this, is there any striker to take advantage of such crosses. Again a Charlton, or Van Basten or even an Alan Shearer. We can but dream and speculate - if only.

Which senior level Australian attacking midfielder can dribble the ball past opponents, Pele or Maradona style. Think of one.

No, whatever is the decision regarding the Australian Coach, that person must do the best they can, with a combination of players 'Down Under' and those in the northern hemisphere.

Whatever way the team plays it will be dictated by those chosen in it. The only certainty is that those in the green and gold, or is that blue and green, will give one hundred percent effort.

The way the senior team plays is dictated by what is taught to the individuals at an early age. Probably all-action might be a good description of the 'Australian style'. Robust it used to be, we'd like to believe it is now more skilful.

The point is that a more robust, aggressive style might in fact suit our temperament and ability. As one correspondent continually points out, 1974 was the only time that Australia graced the World Cup Finals. They played with aggression and in a robust manner!

Makes you think doesn't it? We certainly don't want or deserve a Brian Green, Jimmy Shoulder or Rudi Gutendorf clone. No easy task for Hill & Co.

Venables — Australia's Coach

Former England manager Terry Venables will soon accept an offer to coach Australia's Socceros, The News of the World reported on Sunday.

The newspaper quoted Venables as saying he is "99 per cent certain in the position now."

"There are a couple of details to be sorted out but I don't see any major problem."

In the English summer amid great national euphoria, "El Tel" guided the England team to the semi-finals of the European Championships where they were beaten in a penalty shootout by the eventual tournament winners Germany.

He resigned from the top job after the championships to concentrate on fighting court cases in which he was involved. Venables later accepted a part-time job as Director of Football with English first division Portsmouth and has since been the subject of speculation over his return to full-time coaching.

According to reports he will spend four months of each year in Australia, but will concentrate on coaching the large number of Australians playing in Europe.

Venables said his job will

be to ensure Australia qualifies for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, and said the opportunity to participate in the World Cup persuaded him to take the job.

"That's a huge incentive for me," he said, revealing that he would be delighted if Australia met and defeated England in the World Cup. "The thought of achieving that and meeting England, well, that would be something special."

Venables also praised Soccer Australia, headed by chairman David Hill, with whom the newspaper said he has spent 48 hours in negotiations.

The former Barcelona coach played most of his career with Tottenham Hotspur as an attacking midfielder. He later became Manager of Spurs.

He is also one of the few to have represented England from Schoolboys to full international levels. This is a feat also achieved by Bobby Charlton.

"The set-up is first class. I'd be in charge of the playing side and will be involved in all their Oceania qualifying matches when they get underway."

The newspaper said Venables will be paid around \$400,000 a year.



Mark Kaiser 30 year old former Belmont-Swansea player was killed in the coal mine disaster in the Hunter last Thursday.

Mark was the son of NSW Director of coaching Ken Kaiser.

The condolences of all the soccer fraternity are extended to Mark's family.



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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

FALCONS HANG ON FOR FIRST WIN

Perth Glory

2 Gippsland Falcons 3

By RICHARD KREIDER

A three game unbeaten purple patch from Glory, came to a shuddering halt at Perth Oval last Saturday, when Gippsland Falcons defeated the Ericsson Cup newcomers 3-2.

But it wasn't all plain sailing for the lowly visitors, for after holding a 3-0 lead at the break, the Falcons were then forced to withstand a late onslaught in order to cling on to their first victory of the season.

"To concede three goals in thirteen minutes was a bit hard to take, especially after letting in just one goal over the last three games," said Glory coach Gary Marocchi. "Although I felt the soft penalty decision unsettled the team at first, I was quite pleased with the way we fought back after the break. The crowd was fantastic, and even though we didn't win, I'm sure they got plenty of entertainment for their money."

In fact the Perth supporters

are fast earning a reputation as being the most vocal in the competition.

Despite being 1,700 down from the previous home game against Canberra, the noise was still enough for Gippsland coach Frank Arok to endorse what Mick Lyons of Cosmos earlier remarked, that the support is the best in the country.

But there was a deafening silence in the 21st minute, when referee Andy Gorton awarded a penalty to the visitors, after sweeper Vinko Buljbasic put in a clumsy trip on Marcus Stergiopoulos. Former Socceroo Eddie Krncevic was untroubled in finding the net.

Four minutes later Gippsland increased their advantage, after an Alex Duric strike was too hot for Tom Maras to hold, and Dougie Marcina was ideally placed at the back post to head the ball home.

It was 3-0 in the 34th minute when a speedy breakaway along the left flank by Kiwi Mark Foy was finished with an accurate

Perth: Maras, C Naven, Wilkinson (Kalogeracos 45), Buljbasic, G Naven, Miller, McVittie, Strudwick, Despotovski, Ithier, Wingell.

Gippsland Falcons: Kourtis, Marcina, Stergiopoulos, Mangos, Palamaras, Gimenez, Foy (Osman 60), Krncevic (Wright 64), Duric (Masi 64), Bell, Hastie.

Goals: Perth: Kalogeracos (60), Strudwick (80); Gippsland: Krncevic (21 pen, 34), Marcina (24).

Yellow cards: Perth: Despotovski (52), Naven (74); Gippsland: Osman (75), Gimenez (89).

Referee: A Gorton

Crowd: 6,299.

POY: 3-Stergiopoulos (GF), 2-Wingell (PG), 1-Ithier (PG).

centre to Krncevic who instantly thumped the ball home for his second.

A second-half change with



Vas Kalogeracos on for Gavin Wilkinson took fifteen minutes to bear fruit, when the pacy forward blitzed past three defenders before powering a 20 metre rising strike past Jim Kourtis, who early in the first half, had kept out an identical strike from Dale Wingell with a breathtaking save.

In the 80th minute, Paul Strudwick further reduced the

deficit by drilling a deflected through ball from Bobby Despotovski into the roof of the net.

The rest of the game was all Perth, who went in search of at least a share of the points, but the Falcons rearguard of Stergiopoulos, Marcina, Steve Mangos and Clayton Bell did well to repel everything that was thrown their way.

ZEBRAS BREAK DROUGHT

Adelaide City

2 South Melbourne 1

By LANCE LIBRANDI

Adelaide City chalked up their first win of the season, fending off a late charge by South Melbourne, to take full points at Hindmarsh on Wednesday.

The small crowd, not unusual for the unpopular midweek fixtures, were kept glued to their seats by this highly entertaining encounter.

The first half belonged to the home side, with the Zebras taking the ascendancy and doing most of the attacking. A 'revolving' forward line of Brad Hassell, Dino Mennillo and Michael Musitano kept South's defence busy, and the four-game absence of goals was finally ended in the 12th minute. Mennillo gathered a pass 20 metres from goal, turned, weaved and shot past Michael Petkovic to cap off a fine solo move, and bring the goal-starved crowd to its feet. This great goal, from just outside the penalty area, followed a period dominated

by the Zebras who looked much hungrier than in previous games. Their dominance continued to the half-time break, with the Victorians having only one shot on goal for the half when an Ivan Kelic strike was tipped over the crossbar by Jason Petkovic in the 16th minute.

The second half was more evenly contested, with an early effort by Paul Trimboli skied way over. A good chance fell in the 52nd minute, when Alex Tobin made a rare error, giving the ball straight to Trimboli. Unfortunately, the zippy striker's attempt to chip Petkovic was unsuccessful. Both sides used their full quota of substitutes, with South showing urgency as time ticked away. Sub Bill Damianos had a great opportunity to level the scores in the 74th minute with a close range shot and only the keeper to beat, but Petkovic was equal to the task.

The best chance of the game for the Lakers fell in the 81st minute, when Vaughan Coveney fired from 3 metres out, again parried by Petkovic. The ball fell to the feet of Kelic, about the same distance from goals, but he mis-kicked completely.

Souths were made to pay for that miss, when a minute later, City doubled their lead. A through ball from sub Joe Barbaro to Hassell saw the Zebra striker open his account, calmly slotting the ball past Petkovic. Adelaide didn't celebrate for long, as substitute Michael Curcija pulled one back for the visitors, angling his strike past the City custodian on a quick break, exactly one minute later.

From there, the Lakers piled on the pressure, but time got the better of their late efforts. Big defender Alex Kuzmanovic had the last shot of the night which sailed straight to Petkovic in the City goal.



Dino Mennillo: Broke the Zebras goal drought in 12th minute.

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South Melbourne: M Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Blatsis, Polak (Damianos 65), Panopoulos (Clarkson 56), Coveney, Trimboli, Spink (Curcija 74), Iosifidis, Kelic, DeAmicis.

Scorers:

Adelaide City: Mennillo (12), Hassell (82)
South Melbourne: Curcija (83)
Yellow Cards:
Adelaide City: Costanzo (10), Mennillo (45)
South Melbourne: Blatsis (15), Polak (20)
Crowd: 2,507
POY: 3-Mennillo (AC), 2-Brazzale (AC), 1-Coveney (SM).

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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

FIGHTING STRIKERS DOWN MARCONI

Marconi Fairfield

0

Marconi continued their winless home run last Saturday night going down to Brisbane Strikers 1-0 at home despite a barrage of three consecutive goal scoring chances coming well into stoppage time.

Superbly conditioned and well versed by player/coach and former Australian international goal ace, Frank Farina, the Brisbane Strikers cemented their position at the top of the Ericsson League with a disciplined, fighting exhibition that had their far more illustrious star studded opponent on the canvas for most of the contest.

The Strikers hit the lead in the 27th minute following a free kick after a foul committed by Marconi's sweeper and captain, Jean Paul de Marigny. Tenacious midfielder Gary Phillips knocked a perfect ball over the top into Marconi's box where the slender central marker, Mark Battistin promptly squared across the

goal area for veteran striker Rod Brown to deflect into the target.

In the fifteenth minute, Brown from point blank range had headed strongly well on target but Bob Catlin palmed onto his cross bar for the first of his spectacular saves.

Marconi exploded into action in the 36th minute when Craig Foster screamed up field on a 40 metre raid before spraying wide to his left to pick up Andy Harper racing into the box at top pace. But the robust Harper although blasting well towards the first post was denied joy by Brisbane's goalkeeper Clint Bolton. Two minutes later they repeated the action in reverse. Harper this time raiding up the left crossed well into the box but Foster's left footed volley rocketed just wide of the frame.

Whilst man of the match was easily Marconi's goalkeeper Catlin, the Queenslanders' performance was outstanding as a unit but

special mention must be made of centre back, Mark Battistin and lateral defender Glenn Gwynne.

In the 58th minute right wing back Luke Casserly sent a ball over the top for midfielder Brad Maloney whose chip from inside the box sailed over the horizontal.

Three minutes later Marconi's frustrations continued as Dominic Longo tried a lob shot from just inside the box which ricocheted off the left upright.

The Queenslanders recoiled with a stinging attack when Wehrman knocked wide to the raging Battistin whose blast was deflected by a one gloved Catlin effort.

Farina was denied by yet another magnificent Catlin diving save.

With the match now well into stoppage time Marconi launched sustained attacks desperately searching for an equaliser when first substitute Sean Babic chipped from the by line into the danger area

but Francis Awaritefe went wide of the target from well in front. This was followed when Longo with a solid effort from also inside the box was denied by the brilliant Battistin who cleared off the goal line.

Three minutes into injury time Brendan Renaud from a corner headed well on target but again the home side was denied by a great Bolton save.

A proud Queensland coach, Frank Farina reflected after the match, "Bobby Catlin kept them in the game with spectacular saves from Brown's header and the deflected shot off De Marigny's back.

"We came here to attack intelligently and I can honestly say our success was largely due that every single member of my team was prepared to put in the hard yards to come back and pick up. Meanwhile a frustrated Marconi boss, Manfred Schaefer stated, "I think we may have been awarded a

Marconi: Catlin: Casserly (Stanton 78), Longo, Souris, De Marigny, Renaud: Maloney, Foster (Zoric 68), Bingley, Harper (Babic 68), Awaritefe.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton; Battistin, Gwynne, Hunter; S Cranney, Wehrman, Phillips, T. Cranney, Wright; Farina (Knipe 80), Brown. **Scorer:** Brisbane: R Brown (27). **Yellow Cards:** Marconi: De Marigny (26), Harper (39), Longo (47). Brisbane: Wehrman (48), Hunter (64). **Referee:** S Micallef. **Crowd:** 5,249. **POY Points:** 3-Catlin (MF), 2-Battistin (BS), 1-Gwynne (BS).

Brisbane Strikers

1



Bobby Catlin - Marconi's magnificent goal keeper. penalty but having said that we had heaps of chances unfortunately all coming in the last five minutes. We were punished for a piece of sloppy defending early in the match."

LAKERS GAIN FIRST WIN

South Melbourne

1

By JOHN RIGAS

Newcastle

0

After five games without a victory South Melbourne turned the table with a hard fought win against a determined Newcastle Topper Breakers at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

It has been a long time coming for the Lakers faithful as they cheered their team off the field in superb style.

South coach Angie Postecoglou sprung a surprise by starting with three international players on the bench. Socceros Jason Polak and Warren Spink along with New Zealand striker Vaughan Coveny were the players relegated.

The all important goal arrived in the 26th minute. A David Clarkson corner was met by striker Ivan Kelic who rose to head the ball down past Liam Baker.

Clarkson along with captain Paul Trimboli were inspirational in South Melbourne's first victory. The former ran hard all day winning tackles while Trimboli's vision was exceptional. In fact Trimboli ran himself into the ground according to coach Angie Postecoglou.

Young Socceroo, Bill Damianos had the perfect opportunity to find the back of the net when his sweetly

timed effort brought the best out of Topper Breakers' keeper Liam Baker in the 11th minute.

The visitors should have been on level terms when Troy Halpin crossed the ball to Clayton Zane. However the visitor's striker had his shot cleared off the goaline.

South gave Halpin too much room and time in the 39th minute consequently he struck his shot towards goal. Luckily for the Lakers, Halpin's shot dipped over the crossbar.

The South Melbourne defence was exposed throughout the first half and were lucky not have had a goal

scored against them. Jason Bennett used his pace to beat Con Blatts, Bennett sprayed his shot wide of the post.

Newcastle coach John Kosmina said, "We are missing too many chances that's what is letting us down."

South Melbourne began the second half in blistering fashion and were unlucky not to score seven minutes in. Damianos played a beautiful ball to goalscorer Kelic who was closed down by Baker.

Back from a playing stint in Singapore, Kelic looked dangerous all afternoon, and nearly found a second goal in the 60th minute.

He volleyed the ball on the turn from outside the penalty box forcing Baker into the best save of the game.

Coveny replaced Kelic in the 76th minute to add a little pace in the hope of scoring a second goal. The sub was unlucky not score when Baker again pulled off a sensational save.

Newcastle performed desperately all afternoon but could not find the goal to at least secure a positive result from this game.

Coach John Kosmina was disappointed with the result stating, "We at least should have had three goals with the chances created in the first half.

Lakers: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Blatts, Panopoulos, Trimboli, Iosifidis, Damianos (Polak 63), Clarkson, Kelic (Coveny 76) De Amicis. **Breakers:** Baker, Pryce, Sprod, Ironside, Thomas, Zane, Halpin, McManus.

Scorer: Lakers: Kelic (26). **Yellow Cards:** Breakers: M Austin (17). **Referee:** E Brazzale. **POY:** 3-Trimboli (SM), 2-Baker (NTB), 1-Clarkson (SM). **Crowd:** 5,335.

"We are creating chances every week the boys should have scored five last week against Canberra." Angie Postecoglou

remarked, "It's been tough because we haven't been getting the results."

☆☆☆

CHAMPIONS SLUMP ON LADDER

Melb Knights

0

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

W'gong City

0

Melbourne Knights were held to a second consecutive home draw on Sunday by Wollongong City. The result means that the reigning champions slump to second bottom of the ladder leading into next week's big Melbourne derby against South Melbourne.

Wollongong, to their credit, could have snatched all three points had they taken advantage of a near dominant second half performance.

It was the Knights in the first half who should have been a goal in front.

Early chances for Ice Kutlesovski were dealt with by Brett Hughes before the Knights striker had a golden opportunity in the 31st minute. Sent clear by a long ball out of defence,

Kutlesovski outpaced two defenders, but with only Hughes to beat his shot clipped the outside of the post.

The Knights have scored only three goals in the opening six rounds but the reappearance of Adrian Cervinski as a second half substitute may go some way to ironing out that deficiency.

The second period all belonged to Wollongong. Sonny Sevin, Matt Horsley and Michael Reda all looked dangerous when pushing forward.

Richard Lloyd in particular threatened Vilson Knezevic's goal with two good efforts that narrowly missed giving Wolves the lead. The Knights did find something extra in the last ten minutes with Tom Pondeljak and then John Markovski, with a right foot

volley, going close.

Joe Simunic was perhaps fortunate to be on the park after a mistimed tackle on Anthony Surjan in the 53rd minute. Surjan had to be stretchered off with what was later revealed to be serious injury to the left knee.

"Without criticising the referee, I felt that it was a shocking tackle," said Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Despite getting a point at one of the hardest places in the league to do so, "We (Wolves) thought we deserved the three points. Territorially, we controlled the second half and we really controlled the midfield."

"In all my playing and coaching days, I've never seen a team dominate the Melbourne Knights here as we

did.

"But, in saying that, we haven't come away with the three points so there is a problem." (That of scoring goals).

"I'll take a point but I think my boys have shares in Soccerpools with four draws from six games," Theodorakopoulos quipped.

The Knights with Adrian Cervinski back and Andrew Marth and Ivan Duzel available again next week after suspension, had another blow this week with midfielder Mark Silic requesting a transfer.

"You can't expect to take out six quality players and not have problems. The club has reaped the benefit financially, however on the park we're struggling," said Knights coach Ian Dobson.

Knights: Knezevic, D Cervinski, Z Markovski, Simunic, Lapsansky, Markovski, Kutlesovski (Kovacevic 61), Vojtek (Deak 80), Pondeljak, Banini, Tsirtsakis (A Cervinski 46). **Wolves:** Hughes, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin, Naumovski, Reda, Harlock (Connolly 85), Joseski (Perinich 73), Lloyd, Surjan (Bourke 55). **Yellow cards:** Knights: Tsirtsakis (41), Simunic (53), Vojtek (67). Wolves: Lloyd (22), Bourke (86), Connolly (88). **Referee:** B Hugo. **Crowd:** 3,174. **POY:** 3-Horsley (WC), 2-D Cervinski (MK), 1-Sevin (WC).

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ERICSSON CUP

MATCH REPORTS

PUMAS REPULSE SHARKS

West Adelaide 2 By PETER KRUPKA of AAP Sydney Utd 3

Sydney United Pumas affirmed as the Ericsson Cup's early season title favourite with a stunning 3-2 victory over West Adelaide at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Billed as a danger game for the undefeated league leaders, United stamped its mark on the game early with first half goals to striking dynamo David Zdrilic and defender Mark Babic.

Pablo Cardozo brought the game to life when he fired home a goal for the Sharks against the flow of play 15 minutes into the second half, but a thunderbolt drive by Ante Milosevic secured the win for United.

Sharks defender Robert

Slager turned the ball into the target with his left foot from a corner two minutes into injury time to give the home side a flattering scoreline.

Zdrilic, who considers himself a striker in the mould of England's Alan Shearer, again showed he has the flair to one day snare a rich European contract with a majestic goal in the 21st minute.

He switched a ball to Robert Trajkovski before wandering into space at the top of the penalty area and accepting a perfectly weighted ball back from the defender which he controlled brilliantly and pushed past debutant 'keeper Nathan Wildy.

The goal was the reward

for a period of sustained pressure from the visitors and West looked out of the game just before the break when Babic headed home a corner from close range.

The Sharks paid the penalty for allowing United to take a short corner which Ante Moric curled in perfectly from the queue of Pumas shirts lining up to nod home.

Two half time substitutions from West coach Adrian Santrac went some way to stemming the tide against the Sharks, who began to find easier passage through the United defence in the second half.

Cardozo, who earlier in the second half had a shot saved by Zeljko Kalac, pounced on a cross by striker Jim Tsekis

West Adelaide:

Wildy, Thorp, Perin, Slager, Hooker, Alagich, Castro (Kokkinopitis 46), Cardozo, Milosevic, Day (Borghetto 46), Tsekis.

Sydney United:

Kalac, Trajkovski, Rudan, Popovic, Babic, Enes, Marusic (Markovac 84), Moric (Cvetko 75), Milicic, Zdrilic, Bilokapic.

to poke the ball past the beanpole 'keeper to bring the Adelaide crowd to life.

But they were soon silenced when Milicic blasted a 25 metre shot past the hapless Wildy.

Confirmation it was not to

Scorers: West Adelaide -

Cardozo (60), Slager (89).

Sydney United - Zdrilic

(21), Babic (39), Milicic

(76).

Yellow Cards: West

Adelaide - Day (42), Perin

(54), Sydney United -

Popovic (43).

Referee: E. Lennic

Crowd: 4,703

POY: 3 - Trajkovski (SU), 2

Zdrilic (SU) 1 Cardozo

(WA)

be the Sharks night, came in the 87th minute when a power drive from midfielder Branko Milosevic beat Kalac only to hit the inside of the post and bounce back into the field of play.

AUGERINOS SAVES OLYMPIC

UTS Olympic 1 By JOHN ECONOMOS Adelaide City 1

Adelaide City's surfire look central-midfielder, Bradley Hassell by scoring as early as the second minute last Sunday night at Belmore Oval, had a frustrated UTS Olympic on the back foot for most of the match. That is until gangling substitute Elias Augerinos came on to score a spectacular face-saving equaliser to get Olympic out of jail.

With drizzling rain adding to what was always going to be a difficult, match for Olympic to break through, the 'Black and Whites' completely stunned the home side with an early rocketing goal by Hassell from almost 25 metres. Hassell normally a striker, looked up and fired a lethal dipping drive that flashed in just under the horizontal.

Olympic stung back through Youth international right-midfielder Brett Emerton in the 27th minute. Following a corner Emerton drove hard on target through a crowded

box, but the danger was cleared off the goal-line by John Gibson.

Just a minute later Hassell almost doubled the scoreline. Stealing possession in midfield he beat two Olympic defenders but his final blast from 14 metres flew wide of the first post.

Hanging onto their slender lead Adelaide City tightened up their midfield of Mark Brazzale, Hassell, Gibson and Kosta Salapsidis with their orthodox 'short game' that had Olympic completely frustrated.

Less than five minutes after the break City again threatened as elegant left midfielder Salapsidis broke away to fire a missile that just shaved the outside base of the post from 14 metres.

Abbas Saad, a half-time substitute for Olympic, in the 67th minute with dazzling ball control, switched play from right to left to find Trajanovski on the back post. Although 'Traja' got on the end of the cross with a

powerful downward header, the Zebra's custodian, Jason Petkovic magnificently dived to palm the danger off his goal-line.

With time ticking away and still searching for that equaliser, Olympic became disjointed and fell into a nasty pattern of repeated individual play going forward which always ended in possession being lost.

Finally seven minutes after coming on for striker Norman Tome, Augerinos got clear on the right side to latch onto a great diagonal through-ball from sweeper Ivan Zelic. Although a lethal left footer, the lanky Augerinos unexpectedly unleashed a violent flat right footed drive that flashed into the far corner giving the diving Petkovic no chance.

Hassell, although a striker in all his career, displayed exceptional maturity and shouldered the responsibilities of stand in play maker to have a magnificent game for the 'Black & Whites'. Also

effective for the visitors were Costanzo, Tobin and Ivanovic, whilst Olympic's midfielder Milan Blagojevic tried to be enterprising in getting his side going.

Adelaide City's coach, Johnny Nyskohus later reflected: "Many people, including some of the South Australian media have been writing us off from the very beginning of the season after having sustained loss of players and been crippled with early injuries. We have been coping a lot of stick from almost everywhere but we will be there in the end, wait and see."

"Tonight we lacked a little composure in front of goal but overall did very well especially after having to play a mid-week match against Souths. I thought as well we were a little unlucky, but we still badly need a couple of new players."

David Ratcliffe reflected, "We obviously were down by an early goal after just two minutes which made it very

Sydney Olympic:

Bouhoutsos: Bove (Saad

46), Ciantar, Barrett

(Baillie 21), Zelic,

Edwards: Emerton,

Tsekis, Blagojevic:

Tome, (Augerinos

73), Trajanovski.

Adelaide City:

Petkovic: Costanzo,

Tobin, Ivanovic, Armour:

Brazzale, Hassell, Gibson,

Salapsidis (Barbaro 87):

Mustano (Brooks 62nd),

Mennillo.

Scorers: Adelaide City:

Hassell (2), Olympic:

Augerinos (73).

Yellow Cards: Olympic:

Ciantar (89), Adelaide

City: Hassell (72).

Referee: G. Connelly.

Crowd: 5,216.

P.O.Y.3-Hassell (AC), 2-

Costanzo (AC) and 1-

Blagojevic (UO).

difficult for us as they defended that early lead. We were also disrupted by an early calf muscle injury to our defender Dave Barrett."

COSMOS FORCE LATE HOME DRAW

Canberra Cosmos 2 By GRAHAM COOKE Collingwood 2

It has become a hallmark of Canberra's play in the 14 months since the Cosmos joined the Ericsson Cup, the last gasp, often stoppage time goal, to salvage a point or snatch a win.

It happened again on Saturday night when Richard Wilson pounced on a rebounding ball off the crossbar to hit home a equaliser for the home side. This enabled Unisys Cosmos to draw 2-2 with Collingwood Warriors at Bruce Stadium.

The strike, a full six minutes into stoppage time, brought Canberra a deserved point after it had pounded the Warriors in the previous half hour.

Collingwood coach Zoran Matic criticised his team for losing the initiative after cruising at 2-0.

His Canberra opposite,

Mike Lyons, praised the Cosmos' fighting spirit, "We played with some passion, and we are beginning to show we are a very fit side," he said.

Collingwood's 30th minute goal came as a result of a mid-field bungle by Canberra's former Socceroo captain Paul Wade who gave the ball away to Brian MacNicol.

MacNicol sent Andy Vlahos on his way and the speedy striker out paced the Canberra defence on the right flank, crossing for Kimon Talidoros to head past the hopelessly exposed Danny Milosevic.

Collingwood widened its lead four minutes into the second half when MacNicol volleyed home from a Tapai cross, but Canberra got back into the game after Carlo Talladira handled in the penalty area and Norman



Brian MacNicol provided pass for goal and scored from a volley.

Kelly rammed the spot kick home.

Canberra dominated for the rest of the game, John Koch

going close on two occasions but it seemed the home side would remain pointless until Wilson's late strike.

Cosmos: Milosevic,

Dee, Wade (Watson 72),

Garcia, Kelly, Wilson,

Buljan (Milin 84), Baxter

(Lazzari 56), Koch, Mazis,

Sorras.

Warriors: uric,

Waddel, Jolevski,

Cerracchio, Pak, Talladira,

Vlahos, Boutsianis (Babic

37), Taliadoros, Tapai,

MacNicol.

Scorers: Cosmos: Kelly

(64 pen), Wilson (90).

Warriors: Taliadoros (30),

MacNicol (49).

Yellow cards: Cosmos:

(21), Mazis (90).

Warriors: Talladira (64),

Babic (80), Vlahos (81),

Waddel (90).

Referee: Shield.

Crowd: 2,600.

POY: 3-McNicol (CW),

2-Wilson (CC), 1-Jolevski

(CW).

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Understanding of human side needed by referees

Dear Sir,
I hope that referees are not indulging in power-hungry activities such as dealing out yellow cards left, right and centre.

It is to be hoped that in future they show more discretion and understanding of people's feelings.

Some of the cards shown were hardly necessary and can affect players' performances. While not condoning mean and dirty tackling however some of the cards given for showing dissent were the result of referees not understanding human nature, here are some examples:

Canberra's Alex Castro being unfairly tackled, obstructed by a players' derriere from playing the ball. He loses the ball because of that and then he himself regains it somewhat unfairly.

However, he gets the free-kick against him. Naturally he protests and gets a card. There, perhaps the ref could have spoken to him first.

On Saturday Brad Malony fouled and gets a yellow for a fairly inconspicuous foul. This happened very early and for the rest of the game he had it hanging over him and contained himself.

In the pre-season cup game Brisbane played Marconi and

I was there. A hard but fair game, no mean fouls, the game ended up with half a dozen yellow cards, sending offs etc. No wonder Frank Farina was furious.

Referees reading this will probably say.

"Can you do it better?" Of course mistakes, not seeing things like whose throw-ins, corners etc will happen and players do not normally complain about this aspect.

It is when outcomes are caused by refereeing decisions that players and coaches will complain they are not allowed this as they will be hit with a 'disrepute' charge!

Would it really put the game into disrepute? I doubt it. They should have a chance to have some say if the wording is carefully thought out.

All I am saying is that referees should look at the human side of it — the psychology of the game and human behaviour. Have a word with them if you don't tolerate too much dissent e.g. (profanities about the ref's mother etc.).

I think this way we will get a better player-ref relationship.

Gerry van Duuren,
Nepean, NSW.

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



The Editor,
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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

SIMUNIC — MOST TALENTED

Dear Sir,
I recently attended the fixture which featured Brisbane Strikers and Melbourne Knights. I was looking forward to watching the most talented young player still playing in the Australian league; Joe Simunic.

Simunic is the finest player to emerge since Mark Viduka graced us with his tremendous ability. Simunic first came to prominence in the recent Grand Final when he starred for the Knights after a handful of appearances during the season. Simunic turned on a faultless display at sweeper and was close to man of the match for the triumphant Knights.

On Saturday night Simunic pleased the Brisbane and Melbourne fans alike with his pin-point long range passes which

were delivered with the left or right foot. (A skill which many players aren't able to master). Simunic always looked dangerous when he ventured forward, and in one particular instance he stood up two players with a spectacular turn and dribble.

I was saddened to discover that Joe has put a hold on playing for Australia because of 'personal' problems. I realise Joe's situation that he has a Croatian background, but what about players such as Zelic, Bosnich, and Viduka who have declared their allegiance to Australian soccer as well as their proud Croatian background.

At the time of Mark Viduka's transfer the Melbourne Knights officials were criticised for encouraging Mark to represent Croatia, let's hope no such pressure is being

placed on Joe.

Could it be that overseas clubs don't rate Australian players because of their lack of representation in the best leagues, and the average performance of our national team.

Josip Skoko and Steve Horvat recently became Croatian citizens; are they still eligible to play for Australia?

This situation is occurring more often and many Croatian players have become German citizens, the most notable being Fredi Bobic.

Why should Australia succumb and become a breeding ground for other countries. The loss of Joe Simunic would be a big loss for Australian soccer.

David Dunn,
Bracken Ridge, QLD.



"... and the guy who replaced you scored the winning goal"

Knights and United great providers

Dear Sir,
This column is supposed to provide a forum for all readers to express their views.

Most absurd comments can be laughed off, some remarks made about the writer's lack of brain cells and forgotten.

Unfortunately, however an occasionally ignorant and ridiculous article pops up that doesn't deserve that privilege!

M. Meyer's article is one such piece made some particularly inaccurate and above all racist comments regarding the Australian-Croatian component of Australian soccer.

How can M. Meyer in all honesty conclude that neither the Melbourne Knights nor Sydney Utd have EVER been interested in Australian soccer?

May I remind M. Meyer that some of the greatest Aussie soccerers, who've proudly represented the green and gold are so-called Croatian-Australians, products of the above-mentioned clubs: Krncevic, Horvat, Zelic, Bosnich Popovic, Viduka etc.

Not to mention the Arnolds, Morths Slaters etc. who aren't of Croatian origin yet were able to rise to stardom via the two Croatian-backed clubs. Where would the Socceroos be today without Melbourne Knights and Sydney Utd? I shudder to think.

There's a real link between the de-ethnicising issue in soccer and in the general society. Even though I

personally believe racism is flourishing in Australia, the Australian culture is a blend of multi-culturalism or ethnic diversity. Various influences from different parts of the globe provide the ingredients for a mixed recipe for success.

This also applies to soccer. We need friendly (non-violent) sporting rivalries. In 1997-98 for example, Melbourne will have an 'Anglo-Saxon' club to support — Carlton.

So it'll be a case of the 'skips' trying to beat us at our own game.

This sporting rivalry should be positive assuming it remains purely sporting.

Changes are imperative for soccer's improvement but not at the risk of alienating the existing die-hards.

The fact of the matter is that the 'wogs' are the bread and butter of Australian soccer. Not the Anglo-saxon bandwagon SPECTATORS. Lose the ethnic element and Aussie soccer won't survive. Simple as that!

As for the Joe Simunic affair. Let's face it soccer is big business, bigger than AFL. No one complained when two dinky-die Aussie's turned their backs on Australia to return to the old 'motherland' England for career reasons (does Darigo ring a bell?)

M. Meyer are you familiar with the term 'bigot'?

Tonci Prusac,
North Geelong, VIC.

Disappointed with article

Dear Sir,
It is with great disappointment I read your article on the Football Academy of Excellence (News in Brief 5/11).

I am one of the parents who attended their welcome session last Monday at Concord. The enthusiasm to teach the kids all the skills, techniques etc. was very refreshing and deserved more coverage in your paper. It is important that both players receive as much media coverage as possible to make their Academy successful.

Gardikiotis and Vince (Colagiuri) are prepared to teach the average player to become more confident and skillful in their play. This should have been highlighted by your article. All the big Clubs fall in their responsibility to provide that service as they are only interested in talented players.

I have visited various

school holiday Soccer Camps run by some clubs including Ericsson and find them to be no more than Day Care Centres. The level of coaching leaves a lot to be desired. If we want soccer to grow we must encourage young players, by providing more youth development and make it available to every child, not to the selected few who may have contacts within a Club.

I hope your publication make themselves available for their sessions and that you publish some photographs showing young players in action.

T. Lange, NSW.

Editors Note: When a new enterprise is starting it is difficult to praise it, as this could be seen as compromising ABSW. If the enterprise is successful then for that very reason it will flourish. Our job is simply to publicise not eulogise.

SUNS LOSS OF TALENTED YOUNGSTERS

Dear Sir,
In reply to Mr Cklamovski's letter in the November 12 issue of ABSW, I fear he is talking from his heart rather than with the cold hard facts.

Firstly in his claim of stability, Rockdale boasts a coaching record only second to that of UTS Olympic in the 1980s.

Through their doors we have seen Ilya Takacs, John Fleming, Atti Abonyi, Lube Gajkovic, Lube Jancev, Dennis Hoggart, Manfred Schaeffer, Bill Pilovski, just to name a few over recent years.

Not a very stable coaching record which brings me to Mr Cklamovski's claim of promising junior development.

With constant coaching changes occurring each year

several promising juniors are lost to the club. And again I dare say there are short odds on Rale Rasic hanging around next season.

Neighbouring Arncliffe Scots, who should be congratulated on their promotion to State League 3rd Division, over the years has reaped the rewards of Rockdale's poor follow up on its junior talent.

In their 1996 team Arncliffe boasted no less than seven Rockdale juniors that are more than capable of playing first team football.

Sutherland Shire's example of junior development is one which Rockdale and many other clubs should follow. In the successful 1996 season they had a team mainly consisting of juniors they had developed.

Finally a Mr Cklamovski's

comment, on certain clubs having little to offer to the future of Soccer, I think the turning point for Rockdale was some five years ago when the basis for a successful team of junior talent was very realistic until the ongoing club instability brought this undone and these juniors went elsewhere.

In particular they went to the resurrected St. George club which at one time was in 1st Division and down and out.

Maybe Rockdale should take a leaf from their book and they may find that having a solid junior nursery is what it's all about and only then will crowds and the trust of the local community assure any clubs future survival.

T. Goulding,
Hurstville, NSW.

AFTER END OF GAME

Dear Sir,
I have been reading your paper for the last 15 years and it's the only soccer publication that deals seriously with the local competition, the Ericsson Cup.

Somewhat I feel that the paper has recently been heading in the wrong direction.

Its emphasis seems mainly on match reports on games that we saw live or on the TV a few days

before instead of giving more insight on coaches' and players' views, what's happening behind the scenes, etc.

Your column The Good Oil which used to appear up until a few weeks ago, was a prime example of what I am talking about. I believe that other readers are more interested in what's happened after the 90 minutes.

R. Meretz, VIC.

Claim the credit?

Dear Sir,
It never ceases to amuse or amaze me the way UTS Olympic claim to be developers of young players. The 'Around The Clubs' section of your November 5 issue stated that three young players recently selected for the Australian Youth Team all came through the UTS Youth ranks.

Two of the Players have never played for UTS in any grade other than first Grade.

They both arrived from the AIS. The other's Youth experience was at St George Association and Marconi. He only joined UTS for the NSL

Colts and Youth Teams but never came through the ranks of the Juniors.

The current UTS First Grade team contains only the Captain whom it could be claimed by UTS is a player who has come through the ranks. It is about time either the reporting became more accurate or the club became more fair dinkum and stopped playing games with the ridiculous assertions that they are a club interested in developing their own.

It is just not true.

Stan Jessop,
Liverpool, NSW.

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WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK

Story & Pic by PAUL HARLEY

Listening to a local radio sports show in Innisfail, North Queensland, in 1986, as a twelve year old schoolboy, Mark Shield could scarcely have predicted the impact this was to have on his future. However, nine years later it led to him becoming the youngest referee ever to take charge of a game in the National Soccer League. He hopes it will also see him participate in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

But back to Innisfail, 1986, and Shield takes up the story. "A local referee called Jimmy Hill had a segment on the show every week. That particular week he announced details of the first referees course in the area for junior soccer clubs and players. I didn't even listen to it very often, any other week and I'd probably have missed it."

Successfully completing the course, which ran for almost five weeks, he qualified as a club referee. Being too young for official recognition, he could not wear the referee's badge as yet, and had to piece together a home-made black outfit from his typical schoolboy collection of casual gear. At the age of fourteen he was able to buy the real thing, complete with official badge, and join the local branch of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation.

Moving to Ayr shortly after, he continued to mix refereeing and playing for another year. However, this was becoming increasingly difficult; a referee in the morning, a player in the afternoon, he found himself falling out with his friends on both sides. He soon realised that he would have to choose between the two. Admitting to being not much more than an average player - the highlight of his playing days was selection as goalkeeper in the Johnstone River

representative team at age thirteen - he chose refereeing. It has proved to be one decision that nobody can accuse him of getting wrong.

This was in 1988 as a fifteen year old, by which time his refereeing abilities were already being recognised. He participated in various junior carnivals in the area; the U-12 State Titles at Ayr in 1988 and Proserpine in 1990, and the U-13 State Titles at Townsville also in 1988. His first involvement in senior soccer saw him running lines for the lower grades in Ayr and Townsville competitions.

Also in 1988, Ray McGowan, a senior referee in Ayr and unofficial mentor for the junior referees in the area, entered him in the Queensland "Rookie Referee of the Year" awards. Those entrants from country areas have to travel to Brisbane, referee three games over the weekend, being inspected on each, then return home on the Sunday night. An exhausting schedule, but worth it in Shields' case as he won the award. He went through the same process in each of the following two years; in 1989 being runner-up to the "Junior Referee of the Year" before going one better the next year.

Leaving school in 1990, Shield returned to Rockhampton, his birth place, the following year to study for a Bachelor of Business degree at the University of Central Queensland. With the Soccer season and academic year being virtually the same, this meant refereeing in Rockhampton for the next three years. It would prove to be almost as much of an education, as he moved up through the grades in the local competition.

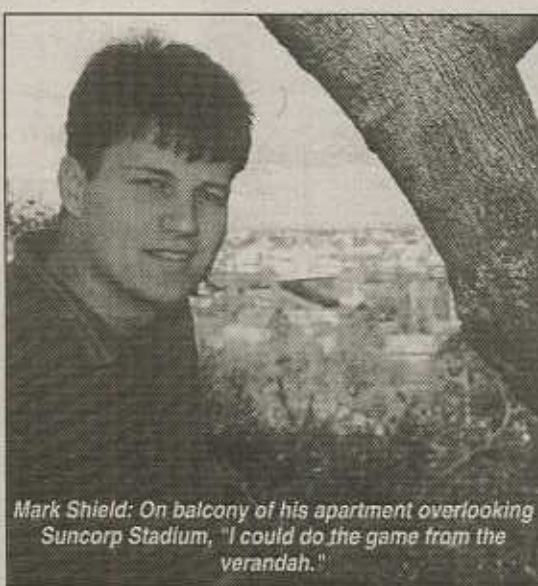
Admittedly his introduction to First Division soccer during his first year there, came as a shock to the system. As senior

linesman, he had to take over at half time after an injury to the referee, Dave Cardinal. "He was injured about ten minutes before half time, managed to finish the half but couldn't go on any longer. There was no time to worry about it, I was straight in at the deep end. The game was over before I had a chance to feel nervous." Looking back, he wonders if the injury was all that it seemed. "He seemed to be doing OK on the line in the second half."

Whatever the circumstances, his unexpected debut at this level must have created a good impression, as more First Division games followed.

Such was his progress, in fact, that at the end of the 1992 season he was appointed to referee the First Division Grand Final. Not quite nineteen at the time, this was "a bit of an experience". Earlier that year he had stepped up to the Central Queensland League, involving the higher ranked clubs from Maryborough to Mackay. Known for its competitive nature, it has tested the mettle of much more experienced referees, but he survived unscathed.

His final year in Rockhampton, 1993, saw him voted Referee of the Year by his colleagues and referee the Wesley Hall Cup Final. This is a prestigious and historic local knock-out tournament, and the finals are widely considered as the most important refereeing appointment in Central Queensland. He had already been field tested on a Central Queensland League game and gained his Class 2 Certificate. Also during those three years he had been selected for further junior carnivals: 1991 - U-15 State Titles, Southport (Grand Final Referee); 1992 - State Secondary Schoolboys, Toowoomba (Grand Final



Mark Shield: On balcony of his apartment overlooking Suncorp Stadium, "I could do the game from the verandah."

Linesman); 1993 - U-16 State Titles, Bundaberg (Grand Final Referee).

It was during his time in Rockhampton that he first came under the eye of Barry Such, then Regional Director of Coaching, now Queensland State Coach. Having heard only some brief reports of his earlier progress, Such was immediately impressed on seeing him in action for the first time. "I knew even then that he had the makings of a very good referee - his ability and enthusiasm were perfectly evident. Naturally at that age he still had a lot to learn, but he has proved to be a quick and willing learner, and to achieve what he has in such a short space of time shows his determination to succeed. He is capable of going a very long way in refereeing. Just how far will depend mainly on his own attitude and commitment, which so far have been first class."

On completion of his University Course, Shield was on the move once more, to Brisbane this time. Although mainly to look for work, it made sense from a soccer perspective as well. In

Queensland soccer, Brisbane is where the action is. And in particular there was the National Youth League, with the Queensland Academy of Sport team taking part for the first time. Shield was one of two Queensland referees selected to handle their home games. The season kicked off while his course was still under way so he had to commute from Rockhampton for the first game, but it was impractical to do so on a regular basis.

Shield had two seasons on the NYL, the second being "way better" than the first. "My first season was a bit up and down. I had a lot of fairly ordinary from anything I'd done before. But it was all useful experience, I learned a lot, and it showed in the second season." So much so, that he was appointed to referee Preliminary Final in Sydney. Unfortunately he went down with tonsillitis in the week leading up to the game and was forced to call off. This still ranks as his biggest disappointment in his career to date.

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Two-way Communication Between Match Officials

By GARY POWER

At the U14 and the U15 Talent Identification Championships held in Brisbane earlier this year it was decided to continue with the experimentation with communication gear that was initiated at last year's National Championships and expanded on in the Queensland State Championships in Bundaberg.

It proved an area of great success. Not only was it possible to dramatically and rapidly improve the performance of the participating referees but it was possible to use the two way system to significantly enhance match control.

Apart from the opportunity to coach the referees and assistant refs, the following, major additional advantages were seen to have been achieved through the use of the communications system.

- Confusion about who scored the goal or who was cautioned were eliminated. This also extended to the elimination of players been sent-off because of recording errors by the referee.

- Problems over which side got the throw-in or whether it was a goal-kick or corner-kick were dramatically minimised.

- Incidents behind play were promptly and effectively dealt with.

- Assistant referees were more effective in their role because they were able to offer opinions to the referee

without the need to stop play.

- Timing of matches was more accurate.

- Substitutions and injuries were dealt with promptly.

- Control of the match was enhanced.

- The communication between referees and assistant referees was far more effective.

Some people were concerned over what was being said to referees. This was overcome by giving the sceptics the opportunity to listen in on the conversations.

The referees were given the option to use the system during the semi-finals and finals. The choice was unanimous, the referees voted in favour.

As one of the referees said: "You'd have to be stupid not to use it. It helps so much."



Referee wired for sound during match. ITC in 1996

AROUND THE CLUBS

Banini A HAPPY KNIGHT

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The Knights have strengthened their squad with the signing of Sunshine Georgies defender Arthur Tsirtsakis.

Tsirtsakis impressed coach Ian Dobson in a recent friendly against Sydney United where he scored a goal in the Knights 2-0 win.

Dobson also got a close look at Zimbabwean trialist Chamu Musanhu in the friendly. Musanhu had his trial extended by the Knights but will not be offered a contract.

Joe Spiteri has been given permission for a month's loan at Austrian First Division club, Sturm Graz.

Spiteri had been trialling in England with Sheffield Wednesday and QPR. He was also offered a trial with Dutch club Groningen. He made his debut two weeks ago in

Graz's 1-3 loss to Admira Wacker.

After a year in the Victorian Premier League, Knights utility Ransford Banini is happy to be back in the big time.

"Every player's dream is to play at the highest level for the best club everywhere you go," Banini said.

The relegation from the Ericsson Cup of the Melbourne Zebras left the former Ghanaian youth international skipper playing below his capabilities.

"I wasn't disappointed playing for the Zebras but when they took them back to the state league I didn't know what to do. When Melbourne Knights approached me I was very happy."

Banini feels that he couldn't have made a better move than that to the reigning champions. He also says that the club is heading in the right

direction off the field.

"They are doing very well in trying to upgrade the facilities."

Coach Ian Dobson is delighted with Banini's versatility in being able to switch from position to position during a match. Although he is mainly a defender, Banini can move into midfield if needs be.

"My best position is right full back. I am very good in that position and I am happy there. I can play anywhere from the defence to the midfield."

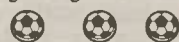
His versatility was at its best in the opening game against Collingwood Warriors when he was switched into midfield with Andrew Marth and then back again when Zoran Markovski was sent off.

Banini is happy with the start the Knights have made, despite the lack of goals



Strengthened squad with signing of Arthur Tsirtsakis.

scored. "It's not disappointing not scoring goals because we are creating the chances. If we scored goals from all our chances, we would score seven goals a game."



By DWYGH TUFFNELL

Fans in Melbourne can tune into a live call of this week's big match against Melbourne Knights at Bob Jane Stadium. Just turn to 3WRB on 97.4 on the FM dial where the "Soccermania" program will provide a live commentary of the game. After the game keep listening for "The Four Diegos" program.

Lakers coach Angie Postecoglou is asking fans to look beyond the club's disappointing start and to get behind them.

"The results really haven't gone as we would like. I think in terms of what we are trying to achieve this season, we're still heading in the right direction," Postecoglou sees the South situation similar to that of Sydney United a few years back.

"We've got a tremendous bunch of players, not only for this year but for coming years too. If the club can keep all these players, then they're going to be in a very healthy position."

"A few years ago Sydney United were struggling with young players, like Tony

Popovic, just starting out in the league. Now they're the hottest thing in the competition."

The return of Ivan Kelic is a bonus for the club says Postecoglou.

"The partnership between Kelic and Warren Spink will be a good one for us."

Postecoglou also has the luxury of having their Young Soccerroo representatives available.

"With so many comings and goings we haven't been able to find the right mix. It's just a matter of trying to find the right balance up front and in the midfield."

"We've had people missing left, right and centre. Now that we've got everyone on board, it gives us a few more options."

Luck too, has been against the Lakers. A dodgy penalty awarded to Brisbane Strikers and the Nick Orlic sending off against Wollongong have both contributed to South's ordinary beginning.

"We're going through a spell at the moment where nothing's going right for us. But I've been in the game long enough to know that these things even themselves out."

The players, says



Postecoglou, ready to turn things around.

"I just feel that the players are itching to get out there and prove a few points. I think our season's well and truly under way, the boys are showing the signs."

Postecoglou knows that the fans aren't going to be patient for too much longer.

"I know the supporters are getting a touch frustrated but they're just looking at our results and seeing that we aren't doing well."

The immediate aim for the club this season is obviously to make the top six. "A club like South Melbourne can't afford to be out of the top six, said Postecoglou."

HIGH QUALITY WANTED AT COLLINGWOOD

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The Warriors aren't going to rush out and buy just any player despite the clear lack of depth in their squad. They had just two players on the bench for the Round 5 game at home to Perth Glory, one of them being reserve goalkeeper, Dean Anastasiadis.

"There's no quality players on the market," said coach Zoran Matic.

"There's no point in just signing more people who are the same quality of the ones we already have."

The loss of Goran Lozanovski is a big one, admits Matic but he isn't about to hit the panic button just yet.

"I never panic...I can only work harder."

Matic is a little disappointed that it took so long to figure out exactly the extent of Lozanovski's injury.

"There were three tests before they could determine the fracture. Goran could have rested if they found out that he had a fracture straight away and could be right to start training instead of being out for four more weeks."

"We asked him to train and of course he aggravated the injury more and more."

There is some speculation that the Warriors may be about to bring two Aussies home from the Greek first division. Chris Kalantzis of Olympiakos and Lou Hristodoulou of Panathinaikos



Chris Kalantzis: Could he be returning to Australia with the Warriors?

are reportedly target of the Warriors.

Hristodoulou, formerly of West Adelaide, has been unable to command a regular place at Panathinaikos and seems certain to make a move. He had been a regular, but had a falling out with former coach, Argentinian Juan Ramon Rocha. Under new coach Velimir Zajec, Hristodoulou, is totally out of the picture.

Kalantzis, too, has struggled to find a place at

Olympiakos with new coach Dusan Bajevic.

Both players can play anywhere and would be a welcome addition to the Warriors depleted squad. They have both played for the Soccerroos at some stage, but in recent years have been overlooked by outgoing coach Eddie Thomson, a problem that all Australians playing in Greece have.

Collingwood have reached an agreement out of court with Adelaide City to

pay the Zebras a bargain \$10,000 for Soccerroo Goran Lozanovski.

A tribunal decided that the Warriors must pay Melbourne Knights \$25,000 as a compensation fee for goalkeeper Frank Juric.

They have also added three youngsters from the Victorian Premier League to their squad. Vlad Babic from Green Gully and Bulleen Lions pair Frank Catalano and Peter Di Iorio have been signed on loan.

FALCONS WRITTEN OFF TOO SOON

By DWYGH TUFFNELL

The Falcons have been written off far too early according to midfielder Will Hastie.

"We were written off early, even before the first game of the season. It is a brand new squad. Ninety per cent of the players are new."

"We were always going to take time to settle and to have South Melbourne, Melbourne Knights, Marconi and UTS Olympic in our first four games was never going to be an easy start. So far we haven't been disgraced."

Hastie followed coach Frank Arok to the Falcons after an impressive season in the Victorian Premier League with Port Melbourne Sharks. He is one of a few Australians to come back young after spending time in Europe where he had an apprenticeship with the Scottish giants Celtic, before playing for Dundee for a season.

Hastie then moved across to Ireland where he joined Sligo and played in the European Cup Winners Cup.

Canberra Cosmos was his next port of call. He lined up

for the fledgling club in its inaugural season but made just four appearances before heading home to Melbourne.

"It's a real buzz for me to be competing against the best in Australia and I've really enjoyed it so far," Hastie said. His enthusiasm can't be dampened despite the Falcons poor start and he believes the club will soon turn things around.

"There's still a lot of confidence in the squad and I'm sure we will be competitive for the rest of the season. We're not too far away, all we need is our first win and I think we'll be on our way."

Hastie thinks the team's problem is lack of concentration for short periods.

"We seem to be losing our way a little bit just for brief ten minute spells. We did well to get 2-0 up against Marconi and then basically threw it away, and two points away with it."

Hastie was sent off in that match and was forced to sit out the next game against UTS Olympic along with the Falcons strikeforce of Alex Duric and Eddie Krncevic.



Willie Hastie: Player with a great deal of experience both in Australia and overseas.

Concentration, again was the problem says Hastie as the Falcons copped three goals in ten minutes in the 3-0 loss.

With such a young, inexperienced squad out to prove themselves, it is just a matter of time before the Falcons start winning says Hastie.

"It's a real opportunity for the majority of the players that all have pretty much come from the Premier League or who are getting back into the Ericsson Cup."

AROUND THE CLUBS

Adelaide Round Up

By LANCE LIBRANDI
Speculation abounds on the mysterious figure agreed upon for the transfer of Goran Lozanovski from Adelaide City to Collingwood Warriors. A Collingwood source claims City got the full \$50,000 that was originally asked for, but an interstate report claims the figure was \$10,000.

Both clubs still refuse to comment, but local information specifies a realistic "mid-range" negotiation figure of \$25,000 with additional monies payable if the midfielder is sold to an overseas club.

Adelaide readers, and visitors in town over a weekend may be interested in tuning in to some of the local soccer shows on the radio. A new show just commencing broadcast is the SAA Soccer Show on 1395 AM, hosted by Gary Doolley and Val Migliaccio. This programme airs on Sunday evenings from 5pm and features local and overseas results and news, as well as interviews with Aussies overseas.

Recently Aurelio Vidmar was on the line, and this week it's Stan Lazaridis' turn. Graham Honeyman also gives a weekly round-up of UK news direct from England.

Another two established

soccer shows are currently on the air for Adelaide listeners. On Radio 5RPH (1197AM) the long running Saturday Morning Soccer Show broadcasts from 10am until noon. Hosted by local soccer writer Allan Crisp and former City coach John Perin, this informative programme concentrates on the Ericsson Cup and local State leagues. Weekly interviews with Adelaide City and West Adelaide coaches and players, along with their opponents for the round, are the norm along with other surprise guests and players of interest.

The other programme airs on Saturday afternoons from 3-4pm on community station 5EB1-FM (92.9FM). Hosted by young Zebras John Gibson and Angelo Costanzo, "Goal" is a fun, lighthearted look at the Adelaide Ericsson Cup players, with profiles, results and a sense of humour. The show is temporarily on hold until December 4th, when it returns as a regular weekly segment.

An amusing anecdote popped up in the Adelaide City match programme last week. In the early days of the National League, Adelaide City were coached by the legendary Edmund Kreft. When things weren't going to plan, he would say "All my



Goran Lozanovski: Mystery.

boys want to be coaches!" He wasn't far wrong - team mates back then were Zoran Matic, John Nyskohus, John Perin and Gary Marocchi, with Adrian Santrac playing not long after. Quite a line-up with all bar one currently experiencing the highs and lows of being the man in charge.

West Adelaide are travelling along nicely with little in the way of changes to their current team at the moment. Ross Aloisi is playing his way back to full fitness through the Sharks youth team, and should resume with the seniors within a week or so. West, of course have the luxury of not needing to rush Aloisi back into their line-up too soon, which often results in injury relapses, thanks to the good squad depth they enjoy this season.

THE GLOW OF GLORY

By BOB BROOKS

The enthusiasm of Perth Glory coach, Gary Marocchi is infectious. A Consulting Structural Engineer with a thriving practice in Perth, Marocchi is ever eager to talk to the media. He realises that sensible use of the media is of major benefit to the Glory.

The move into full-time coaching would only be a temptation for the well spoken, personable Marocchi if there was a good salary on offer. Then as he reflects, "Not too many last too long"

His aim is to get the squad numbers up to 18 and they are actively looking at signing two players. Anthony Carbone isn't one of these two.

The 13 cap international believes that promotion is the key to the future of the game.

He is pleased to report that the 'Western Australian' daily paper is devoting a full page on Monday, with words and pictures, to Perth Glory. There's about three quarters of a page every Tuesday and then plenty of preview from Thursday to Saturday, when appropriate.

Channel 7 recently devoted

seven minutes to the club, its players and coaching staff. This went out Australia wide. Channel 9 is carrying news reports.

6NR was inundated with callers when Perth played Collingwood in Melbourne, all wanting to know what was happening. This radio station broadcasts Glory's home games live.

According to the shrewd coach's statistics for that away match his team gained nine corners to Matic's outfit's 4. All that Marocchi's team needs to do, is to be able to turn territorial advantage into goals.

Allan McKenzie is recovering from his medial ligament strain and should be back before the end of the month. He's returned to training, which is a pleasing occurrence for Coach Marocchi.

With their thin squad they are fortunate to have two very good goalies on their books. Tom Maras has the nod at the moment. He has played in Malaysia and Hong Kong and on a number of occasions for the State.

The second keeper, Vince Mattassa is a former Australia Youth international

representative.

A bus load of supporters are travelling from the State's south coast for every home game at Perth Oval. There is a large following for the code in the Bunbury and Albany area. Kalgoorlie is another hot bed of the World Game in Australia's largest State.



Gary Marocchi: Perth Glory's intelligent and erudite coach.

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U/18s & U/21s for 1997

SUPER LEAGUE SEASON

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Tuesday Nov 26 — 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday Nov 27 — 6.00 p.m.

Friday Nov 29 — 6.00 p.m.

Sunday Dec 1 — 5.00 p.m.

Enquiries:— MICK GROZDANOVSKI

(W) 9585 1619

(H) 9696 1962

TOPPER BREAKERS

By DANE SKAFTE

Newcastle Topper Breakers striker Harry James is one of Newcastle's best known players and he has plenty of support from the local community.

James has not started in the 11 man line-up this season, with Breakers coach John Kosmina opting to bring him on as a fresh reserve in the second half.

James has shown plenty of character on and off the field and always puts 110 per cent into everything whether its training or during the Ericsson Cup competition.

The 20 year old is just waiting for his opportunity to prove himself on the park.

"I think a bit of competitiveness in the team is good because it makes us keen to keep our places in the side," James said.

"So far this season we have deserved more points than we have received," he said.

James came on for the final 15 minutes of the match against Canberra, but could not find the winning goal despite creating plenty of opportunities.

"Our problem is that we create a bulk of chances but

unfortunately we lack in the finishing touches," James said.

"Although we are conceding goals our new defence line-up is improving at every game.

"At training its evident that players have matured in attitudes as well as abilities."

James fully agreed that the team is setting a goal to finish in the top six places this season.

James feels that he missed several chances at the last home match due to his match fitness.

"I've been in this situation before, I just have to wait for my chance which I'll grab with both hands.

"Kossie is starting to make the players go for a drink after training a couple of nights a week so we can get together as a team," James concluded.

Several of the Newcastle players were in doubt for last Sunday's match against South Melbourne. Captain Troy Halpin and Scott Thomas suffered stomach viruses earlier last week but they recovered in time for the match.

WOLVES THE TREND SETTERS

By PHIL MURPHY

After five seasons at Morwell, midfielder Sonny Sevin decided it was time for a change.

He decided to swap the country life in the La Trobe Valley for the beaches of the NSW South Coast.

Sevin jumped at the opportunity to play with Wollongong City.

At 24, Sevin has adapted well to his new lifestyle and, more to the point, Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is happy with the way he is playing.

Living close to Corrimal Beach and sharing with team mates, Michael Reda and Neil Harlock, Sevin is glad he made the move.

He told ABSW he had enjoyed his stint at Morwell but five years was long enough at one club.

"When the offer came to join Wollongong, I was very interested," Sevin said.

"I had been there a few times playing with South Melbourne and Morwell and it seemed a nice place.

"The fact that Nick (Theodorakopoulos) was rebuilding his side was another thing to sway me.

"Wollongong have always been competitive in recent years but it seemed as though the club really wanted to make an impact.

"That suits me fine because I want to be part of a club with a chance of making the playoffs.

"Wollongong have signed a few good players and we have had a reasonable start to the season.

"I have been enjoying the training and we have a good bunch; they all seem to get on well together."

The livewire midfielder started his national league career with South Melbourne and moved to Morwell after one season at Middle Park.

He also had a stint at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Recognised as a player who gets best results operating wide on the right, Sevin has adjusted to his central role at Brandon Park.

Theodorakopoulos slotted him in there because Matt Horsley is used as an attacking fullback down the right.

Before the opening round of the Ericsson Cup, Sevin tipped the Wolves to finish in the top six.

After six rounds, he



Sonny Sevin: Has adapted well to a central midfield role.

believes nothing has happened to change his mind.

Theodorakopoulos said Sevin had been a valuable acquisition for the Wolves squad.

The coach explained that his experience in the league over six years showed up in his play.

"I am certain Sonny will make an impact on the league as the season goes on," Theodorakopoulos concluded.

WEST WANDERERS



FIRST DIVISION STATE LEAGUE

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U/18 TUESDAYS — 7.00 PM

1st & U/21 WED — 7.00 PM

ALL TIMES 7.00PM

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Further Information:—

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02 9637 1607 (a.h.)

AROUND THE CLUBS

Farina — Queensland household name

By GLENN DAVIS

It seemed incredible, Frank Farina, with 67 Socceroo caps to his name, had something to prove to soccer fans when he was named coach of the Brisbane Strikers at the start of the year.

Farina, now a household name throughout Queensland and the face of soccer in this big State, is slowly notching up his coaching achievements in the same professional manner he does on the playing field.

Taking over from sacked coach Bruce Stowell, who had taken the Strikers to an historic semi-final berth last season, was one big ask, especially for a man who has never coached before.

Naturally, the cynics came out in their droves with wild accusations in some quarters that Farina had everything to lose and nothing to gain by taking on the player-coaching role.



However, Farina is the type of man that relishes a challenge. He loves nothing better than to turn a negative into a positive.

Say he can't do something and you can bet he'll prove you wrong.

It's still only early days in the Ericsson Cup, but Farina so far has shouldered the responsibility well and any critics he may have had have gone underground, at least until the Strikers' slip up - for the first time this season.

Farina couldn't have dreamed for a better start to the season with the icing on the cake being a 1-nil win against his former club Marconi in Sydney on Saturday night.

That win maintained their

unbeaten record and left the Queenslanders joint leaders in the Ericsson Cup competition.

Farina's shoot from the hip, no-nonsense approach seems also to have followed him into the coaching sphere.

Farina was recently felled by Melbourne Knight's defender Andrew Marth resulting in the ace striker having x-rays for a suspected fractured jaw.

But not even a swollen face could prevent Farina was returning a verbal volley from Knights' coach Ian Dobson who reportedly accused Farina of making a meal of the incident with Marth.

"Farina made a meal of it. He's a wily old fox and I think Andrew Marth was a bit naive and got caught," Dobson said.

"Only minutes earlier Frank did the same thing to him," Dobson was quoted as saying. Like Marth's elbow Farina copped Dobson's comments on the chin.

"All I can say is I was carried off when the score was

1-all and didn't go back, so Dobson should wake up and smell the roses if he thinks I was putting it on," Farina said.

Farina did not accuse Marth of anything deliberate against him this time, just as was the case last year when both men clashed in another incident which left Farina sent off and automatically suspended for one match, only to be found innocent later.

Farina feels Soccer Australia's disciplinary measures are inadequate when compared to other codes.

"I was found innocent last year yet still served a match suspension," Farina said.

"If there are deliberate infringements that can be proven then perhaps there should be longer penalties,"



Frank Farina in action for Australia. He is proving a great favourite in the Sunshine State.

OLYMPIC WELCOMES BACK YOUNGSTERS

By JODEE ROGERS

Ivan Zelic, Carlos Gonzales and Brett Emerton who have all been playing for the Australian Youth side are back with Olympic. They won't be away again until after Christmas and Coach, David Ratcliffe said it will be great to get some games out of them.

Ratcliffe has been impressed with Striker, Norman Tome this season. He added that George Bouhoutos has been in excellent form between the sticks.

There are still some teething problems at Belmore Oval and the players are still getting a feel for the ground. They have played three games there this season but it is making it hard to get use to the ground as they are not using it as their training ground. Hopefully, they will start to feel comfortable there as they have a three year contract to play at Belmore.

George Sorras played his first game with Canberra Cosmos on Saturday against



Norman Tome: Has impressed his coach so far this season.

Collingwood.

The 24 year old defender will be loaned to Canberra for the remainder of the 1996/97 season, which will give him the opportunity to play more games.

Sorras stated, "At this stage

in my career my main goal is regular first team football and they have been honest enough to say that at the moment I am not in the first eleven. The Management of Olympic have been superb, they listened to my situation and helped me

obtain the regular football that I crave, I am still an Olympic player."

Manager, Steve Darby said he had no doubts that Sorras will return to Olympic one day.

UNISYS COSMOS SIGN SORRAS

George Sorras, after 12 years with UTS Olympic, has made a move. He joined Canberra Unisys Cosmos on loan last week.

The 24 year old who played for the Young Socceroos in Portugal in the 1991 Finals, has played 90 Ericsson Cup games and is seeking new challenges. Sorras is no stranger to Canberra having attended the AIS in 1989 and 1990.

Sorras can fill either in defence or attack. He is a true utility player.

He joins other AIS graduates at Bruce Stadium, they are Danny Milosevic, Paul Dee, John Koch, Michael Garcia and Vince Grella. The latter is out for about six weeks with a fractured cheekbone.

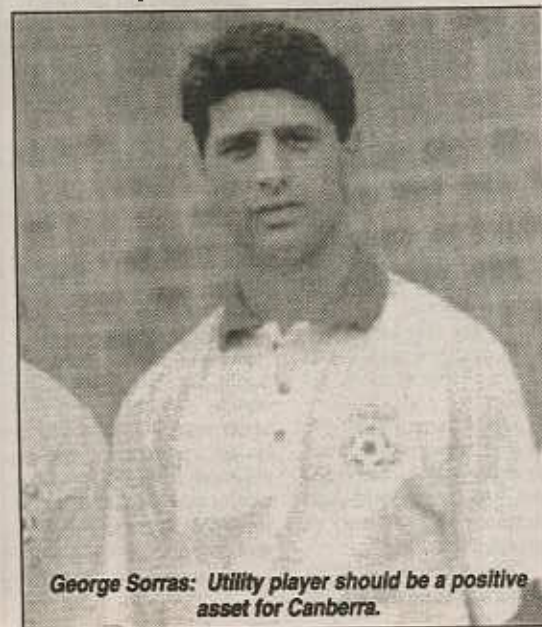
Striker Tony Lemezina has resumed training. He sustained ankle ligament damage in the second week of the season.

The tall, well built goalscorer is a veteran of Canberra teams having

previously played in the NSL and then the NSW Super League. At both levels he posed a threat to opposing defences.

Coach Mike Lyons has a real challenge on his hands with a thin squad and little

money available to him. He said of the Sorras signing, "He's quick and it is important we get players with a bit of pace."



George Sorras: Utility player should be a positive asset for Canberra.

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND SIX

Canberra Cosmos	2
(Kelly 65 pen, Watson 90)	
Collingwood Warriors	2
(Taliadoros 30, MacNicol 49)	
Crowd: 2,533	
Marconi Fairfield	0
Brisbane Strikers	1
(Brown 26)	
Crowd: 5,249	
Perth Glory	2
(Kalogeracos 60, Strudwick 80)	
Gippsland Falcons	3
(Krnecvic 21 pen, 34; Marcina 25)	
Crowd: 6,299	

South Melbourne	1
(Kelic 26)	
Newcastle Breakers	0
Crowd: 5,335	
Melbourne Knights	0
Wollongong City	0
Crowd: 3,174	
UTS Olympic	1
(Augerinos 77)	
Adelaide City	1
(Hassell 2)	
Crowd: 5,216	

West Adelaide	2
(Cardozo 60, Slager 89)	
Sydney United	3
(Zdrilic 21, Babic 39, Milicic 76)	
Crowd: 4,703	

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

for ROUND 6

1995/96 - 29,383

1996/97 - 32,509

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

PRICES SUPPLIED BY **SPORTODDS**

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Newcastle Breakers 6/4, Draw 2/1, Collingwood Warriors 6/4

SYDNEY UNITED V PERTH GLORY

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1996 - 6.30PM

Sydney United 2/7, Draw 3/1, Perth Glory 6/1

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V CANBERRA COSMOS

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Gippsland Falcons 4/7, Draw 5/2, Canberra Cosmos 7/2

BRISBANE STRIKERS V UTS OLYMPIC

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.00PM

Brisbane Strikers 9/10, Draw 9/4, UTS Olympic 2/1

WOLLONGONG CITY V MARCONI FAIRFIELD

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1996 - 6.30PM

Wollongong City 13/8, Draw 9/4, Marconi Fairfield 5/4

SOUTH MELBOURNE V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1996 - 6.00PM

South Melbourne 5/4, Draw 9/4, Melbourne Knights 7/4

ADELAIDE CITY V WEST ADELAIDE

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 1996 - 7.30PM

Adelaide City 6/4, Draw 9/4, West Adelaide 6/4

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Player of the Week Points

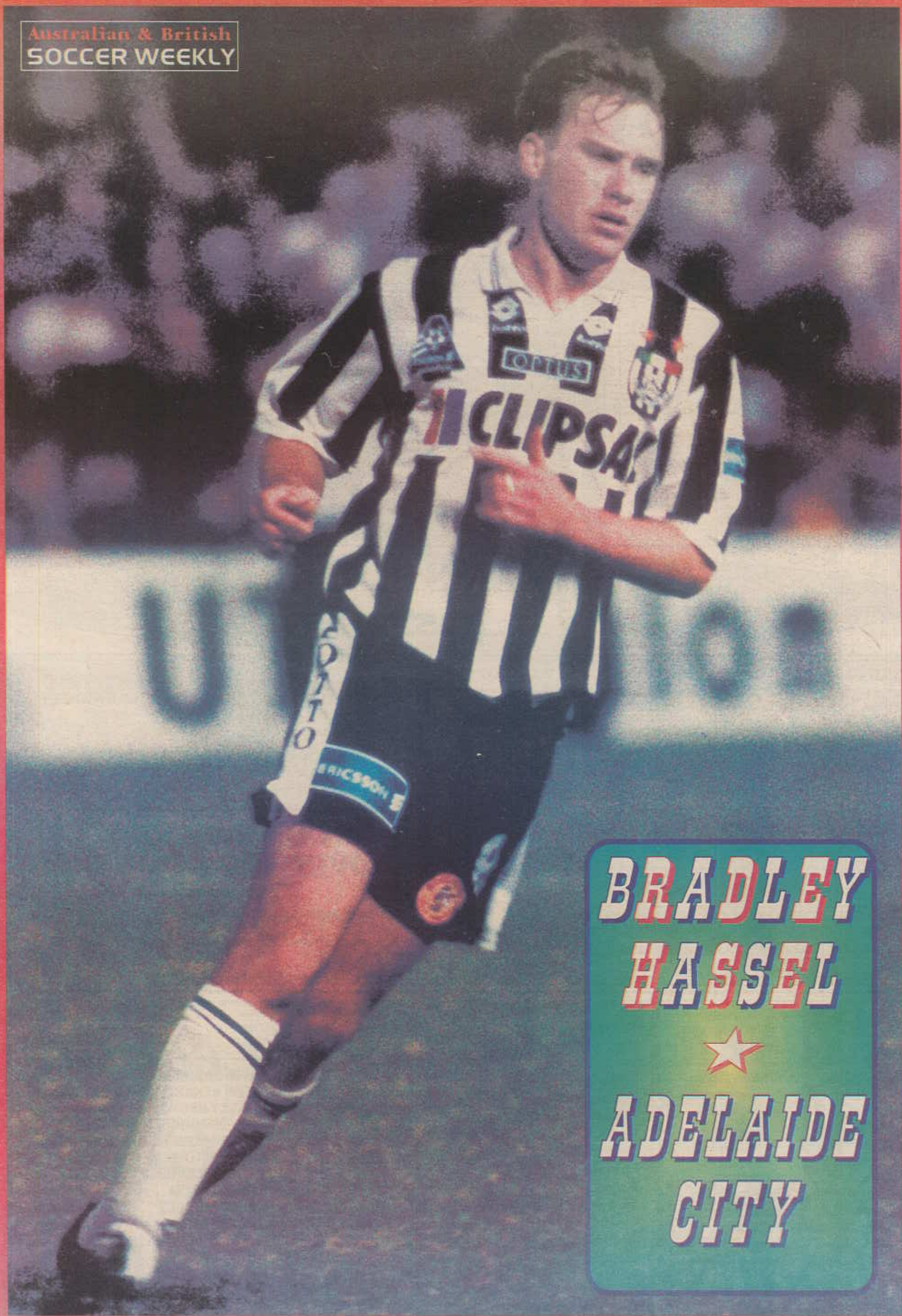
NAME	TEAM	PTS
Sean Cranney	Brisbane Strikers	8
Troy Halpin	Newcastle Breakers	8
Jim Tsekis	West Adelaide	7
Tony Popovic	Sydney United	7
Matthew Horsley	Wollongong City	7
Alvin Ceccoli	Wollongong City	6
Frank Juric	Collingwood	6
Kasey Wehrman	Brisbane Strikers	6
Gareth Naven	Perth Glory	6
Bobby Despotovski	Perth Glory	6
Bob Catlin	Marconi Fairfield	6
Paul Trimboli	South Melbourne	6

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	6	5	1	0	17	8	16
Brisbane Strikers	6	5	1	0	13	4	16
UTS Olympic	6	4	1	1	10	4	10
Collingwood Warriors	5	2	3	0	8	4	9
West Adelaide	6	3	0	3	12	14	9
Marconi Fairfield	6	2	2	2	7	9	8
Perth Glory	6	3	1	2	13	11	7
Wollongong City	6	1	4	1	6	6	7
Adelaide City	6	1	3	2	3	4	6
Newcastle Breakers	7	1	3	3	11	14	6
South Melbourne	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
Gippsland Falcons	6	1	1	4	6	10	5
Melbourne Knights	6	1	1	4	3	8	5
Canberra Cosmos	7	0	3	4	8	18	3

Leading Goalscorers

NAME	TEAM	GOALS
DAVID ZDRILIC	Sydney United	6
JASON BENNETT	Newcastle Breakers	4
RODNEY BROWN	Brisbane Strikers	4
BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI	Perth Glory	4
MATTHEW HORSLEY	Wollongong City	4
NORMAN TOME	UTS Olympic	4
JIMMY TSEKIS	West Adelaide	4
FRANK FARINA	Brisbane Strikers	3
NORMAN KELLY	Canberra Cosmos	3
GLENN SPROD	Newcastle Breakers	3
PAUL STRUDWICK	Perth Glory	3
K TALIADOROS	Collingwood	3
KRIS TRAJANOVSKI	UTS Olympic	3



**BRADLEY
HASSEL**
★
**ADELAIDE
CITY**



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WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

World Cup Qualifiers

European Group Six

Spain	4	Slovakia	1
Table			
Yugoslavia	4	4	0 0 18 2 12
Slovakia	4	3	0 1 12 5 9
Spain	3	2	1 0 10 3 7
Czech Republic	3	1	1 1 6 1 4
Faroe Islands	5	0	0 5 5 22 0
Malta	3	0	0 3 0 18 0

Oceania Zone - Polynesian Group

Tonga	2	Cook Islands	0
Western Samoa	2	Cook Islands	1
Tonga	1	Western Samoa	0

Table			
TONGA	2	2	0 0 3 0 6
Western Samoa	2	1	0 1 2 2 3
Cook Islands	2	0	0 2 1 4 0

Tonga advance to the Second Round where they will play Melanesian Group runners-up, Solomon Islands.

The winner of that tie will then join Australia and Tahiti in Group 1 of the Final Play-Offs. Group 2 will consist of New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

The winners of these groups will play off for the right to meet the 4th team in Asia with a place in France 98 as the reward

Austria

Rapid Vienna	6	Ried	0
Linzer ASK	1	Austria Vienna	0
Casino Graz	2	Sturm Graz	2
SCN Adm/Wack	0	FC Linz	1

Table

Rapid Vienna	17	10	6	1	37	14	36
SV Salzburg	16	9	5	2	22	8	32
FC Tirol Innsb	16	8	5	3	27	16	29
Linzer ASK	17	6	6	5	19	20	24
Austria Vienna	17	6	3	8	19	29	21
Sturm Graz	17	5	5	7	23	21	20
Casino Graz	17	4	7	6	19	23	19
Ried	17	5	2	10	21	35	17
SCN Adm/Wack	17	3	6	8	18	27	15
FC Linz	17	3	5	9	9	21	14

Belgium

Mouscron	3	Charleroi	1
Harelbeke	2	Genk	1
Lommel	1	Mechelen	0
Anderlecht	4	Ekeren	1
Cercle Brugge	0	Club Brugge	2
Antwerp	3	Molenbeek	2
Lierse	2	Sint Truiden	1
Lokeren	2	Aalst	2
Ghent	2	Standard Liege	1

Table

Club Brugge	15	9	4	2	29	14	31
Standard Liege	15	10	0	5	29	18	30
Mouscron	15	8	5	2	26	14	29
Harelbeke	15	8	3	4	27	18	27
Lierse	15	7	6	2	24	14	27
Anderlecht	15	7	5	3	26	13	26
Antwerp	15	8	1	6	26	25	25
Lommel	15	7	4	4	26	24	25
Molenbeek	15	6	4	5	17	16	22
Lokeren	15	5	4	6	25	26	19
Ghent	15	5	3	7	25	31	18
Genk	15	4	6	5	17	21	18
Charleroi	15	5	2	8	23	26	17
Ekeren	15	4	3	8	19	25	15
Mechelen	15	3	5	7	16	24	14
Aalst	15	2	7	6	18	27	13
Sint Truiden	15	2	4	9	20	35	10
Cercle Brugge	15	0	4	11	13	35	4

England

Premier League

Aston Villa	1	Leicester	3
Blackburn	1	Chelsea	1
Everton	7	Southampton	1
Leeds	0	Liverpool	2
Manchester Utd	1	Arsenal	0
Newcastle	1	West Ham	1
Tottenham	2	Sunderland	0
Wimbledon	2	Coventry	2
Derby	2	Middlesbrough	1

Table

Newcastle	13	9	1	3	24	14	28
Liverpool	12	8	2	2	22	11	26
Arsenal	13	7	4	2	24	11	25
Wimbledon	13	7	3	3	24	15	24
Chelsea	13	6	5	2	22	18	23
Manchester Utd	13	6	4	3	24	19	22
Tottenham	13	6	2	5	14	11	20
Everton	12	5	4	3	19	13	19
Aston Villa	13	5	3	5	16	14	18
Leicester	13	5	2	6	12	16	17
Sheffield Wed	12	4	4	4	13	17	16
West Ham	13	4	3	6	12	17	15

Derby	12	3	5	4	12	14	14
Southampton	13	3	4	6	22	24	13
Middlesbrough	12	3	4	5	17	21	13
Sunderland	13	3	4	6	9	16	13
Leeds	13	4	1	8	11	20	13
Coventry	13	1	7	5	7	17	10
Blackburn	13	1	5	7	11	17	8
Nottingham For	12	1	5	6	10	20	8

Division One

Birmingham	3	Bolton	1
Manchester City	2	Oxford	3
West Bromwich	1	Sheffield United	2
Bolton	2	Crystal Palace	2
Bradford	2	Ipswich	1
Grimsby	1	Stoke	1
Norwich	1	Reading	1
Oxford	1	Huddersfield	0
Port Vale	0	Sheffield United	0
Portsmouth	2	Manchester City	1
Queens Park Rang	1	Charlton	2
Southend	2	West Bromwich	3
Swindon	3	Barnsley	0

Table

Bolton	18	11	5	2	40	25	38
Crystal Palace	18	9	7	2	41	15	34
Norwich	18	9	5	4	27	18	32
Barnsley	17	8	6	3	30	22	30
Sheffield United	16	8	5	3	31	17	29
Oxford	18	8	4	6	24	15	28
Swindon	17	8	2	7	27	19	26
Tranmere	18	7	5	6	26	21	26
Wolverhampton	17	7	5	5	22	17	26
Stoke	16	6	6	4	23	27	24
Port Vale	19	5	9	5	17	20	24
West Bromwich	18	5	8	5	23	27	23
Portsmouth	19	6	5	8	22	25	23
Queens Park Ran	19	5	7	7	21	26	22
Huddersfield	17	5	5	7	20	25	20
Southend	19	4	8	7	20	31	20
Birmingham	15	5	5	5	18	18	20
Charlton	15	6	2	7	16	22	20
Ipswich	18	4	7	7	22	26	19
Reading	17	5	4	8	20	28	19
Manchester City	17	6	1	10	19	26	19
Bradford	19	4	5	10	16	33	17
Oldham	19	3	7	9	20	24	16
Grimsby	18	3	5	10	19	37	14

Late Results

Wolverhampton	1	Birmingham	2
Newcastle Town	0	Notts County	2
Northampton	0	Watford	1
Whitby Town	0	Hull	0

FA Cup

First Round

Ashford Town	2	Dagenham	2
Blackpool	1	Wigan	0
Boreham Wood	1	Rushden	1
Boston	3	Morecambe	0
Brentford	2	Bournemouth	0
Bristol Rovers	1	Exeter	2
Bromley	1	Enfield	3
Burnley	2	Lincoln	1
Cambridge United	3	Welling	0
Cardiff	2	Hendon	0
Carlisle	6	Shephed	0
Chester	3	Stalybridge	0
Chesterfield	1	Bury	0
Colchester	1	Wycombe	2
Colwyn Bay	1	Wrexham	1
Crewe	4	Kidderminster	1
Farnborough	2	Barnet	2
Gillingham	1	Hereford	0
Hartlepool	0	York	0
Hednesford	2	Southport	1
Leyton Orient	2	Merthyr	1
Macclesfield	0	Rochdale	2
Mansfield	4	Consett	0
Northwich	2	Walsall	2
Peterborough	0	Cheltenham	0
Plymouth	5	Fulham	0
Preston	4	Altrincham	1
Runcorn	1	Darlington	4
Scunthorpe	4	Rotherham	1
Shrewsbury	1	Scarborough	1
Stevenage	2	Hayes	2
Stockport	2	Doncaster	1
Sudbury	0	Brighton	0
Swansea	1	Bristol City	1
Torquay	0	Luton	1
Wisbech	1	St Albans	2

FA CUP

2nd Round Draw

Northwich or Walsall	Burnley
Blackpool	Hednesford
Chesterfield	Shrewsbury or Scarborough
Whitby or Hull	Crewe
Colwyn or Wrexham	Scunthorpe
Mansfield	Stockport
Newcastle Town or	

Notts County	Rochdale
Carlisle	Darlington
Chester	Boston
Preston	Hartlepool or York
Leyton Orient	Stevenage or Hayes
Northampton or Watford	Ashford or Dagenham and Redbridge
Cambridge	Woking or Millwall
Sudbury or Brighton	Brentford
Luton	Boreham Wood or Rushden and Diamonds
Enfield	Peterborough or Cheltenham

Plymouth	Exeter
Farnborough or Barnet	Wycombe
Cardiff	Gillingham
Swansea or Bristol City	St Albans

Ties to be played on December 6, 7 or 8.



League Cup

Third Round replays

Arsenal	5	Stoke	2
(Arsenal away to Liverpool)			
Coventry	0	Gillingham	1
(Gillingham away to Ipswich)			
Liverpool	4	Charlton	1
(Liverpool at home to Arsenal)			

France

Bordeaux	5	Paris Saint-Germain	3
Caen	0	Monaco	1
Rennes	1	Auxerre	0
Bastia	2	Metz	1
Marseille	2	Lens	1
Nantes	1	Guingamp	1
Strasbourg	2	Cannes	0
Nice	0	Le Havre	3
Nancy	0	Montpellier	0

Table

Paris Saint-Germ	18	11	5	2	30	12	38
Monaco	18	10	5	3	33	16	35
Bordeaux	18	8	6	4	26	19	30
Bastia	18	8	6	4	24	19	30
Auxerre	18	7	8	3	24	10	29
Metz	18	7	7	4	20	15	28
Strasbourg	18	9	1	8	22	26	28
Lille	17	7	5	5	21	26	26
Rennes	18	7	4	7	22	24	25
Marseille	18	6	6	6	18	17	24
Lens	18	7	3	8	23	27	24
Lyon	17	6	6	5	21	25	24
Nantes	18	5	8	5	30	22	23
Guingamp	18	5	7	6	15	17	22
Le Havre	18	5	5	8	20	21	20
Cannes	18	4	7	7	10	17	19
Montpellier	18	3	8	7	15	21	17
Caen	18	3	7	8	11	18	16
Nancy	18	2	6	10	11	22	12
Nice	18	2	4	12	14	36	10

Germany

Borussia Dortmund	1	Karlsruhe	1
Hamburg	0	Bayer Leverkusen	2
VfB Stuttgart	3	Bochum	1
Freiburg	0	Bayern Munich	0
1860 Munich	1	Arminia Bielefeld	3
Fortuna Duesseldorf	1	Schalke	3
B.Moenchenglad	0	St Pauli	0
Cologne	4	Werder Bremen	1

Table

VfB Stuttgart	14	9	3	2	37	13	30
Bayer Leverkusen	14	9	3	2	31	15	30
Bayern Munich	14	8	5	1	23	12	29
Borussia Dort	14	8	3	3	28	16	27
Cologne	14	8	1	5	27	21	25
VfL Bochum	14	6	5	3	19	19	23

Holland

Heerenveen	1	Feyernoord	0
PSV Eindhoven	2	Sparta Rotterdam	1
Ajax Amsterdam	2	Fortuna Sittard	2
Twente Enschede	5	Willelm II Tilburg	0
Vitesse Arnhem	2	RKC Waalwijk	2
Roda JC Kerkrade	2	NEC Nijmegen	0
Feyenoord	1	NAC Breda	0
Heerenveen	2	Graafschap Doetinchem	1
Graafschap Doetin	1	Volendam	0
Utrecht	1	Roda JC Kerkrade	1
AZ Alkmaar	2	RKC Waalwijk	1
Fortuna Sittard	1	Twente Enschede	1



WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

Italy	
Atalanta	1
Internazionale	2
Napoli	4
Piacenza	1
Reggiana	1
Roma	3
Sampdoria	1
Verona	2
Juventus	0

Table	
Inter	9
Vicenza	9
Juventus	9
Bologna	9
Napoli	9
Sampdoria	9
Roma	9
Milan	9
Fiorentina	10
Parma	9
Udinese	9
Perugia	9
Lazio	9
Piacenza	9
Atalanta	9
Cagliari	9
Verona	9
Reggiana	9

Northern Ireland	
Ards	4
Crusaders	2
Glenavon	4
Linfield	2

Table	
Coleraine	7
Crusaders	7
Portadown	6
Linfield	7
Glenavon	7
Ards	7
Glentoran	7
Cliftonville	6

Poland	
Sokol Tychy	0
Gornik Zabrze	0
GKS Katowice	4
Widzew Lodz	1
Ruch Chorzow	2
Odra Wodzislaw	4
Lech Poznan	0
Slask Wroclaw	0
Wisla Krakow	3

Table	
Widzew Lodz	16
Legia Warszawa	16
GKS Katowice	16
Amica Wronki	16
Rakow Czestoch	16
Stomil Olsztyn	16
Odra Wodzislaw	16
Wisla Krakow	16
Polonia Warszawa	16
Sokol Tychy	16
Lech Poznan	16
Hutnik Krakow	16
Zaglebie Lubin	16
GKS Belchatow	16
Slask Wroclaw	16
Ruch Chorzow	16
LKS Lodz	16
Gornik Zabrze	16

Portugal	
Sporting	2
Chaves	2
Maritimo	0
Salgueiros	3
Farense	1
Estrela Amadora	2
Espinho	0
Boavista	3
Rio Ave	0

Table	
Porto	10
Benfica	10
Sporting	10
Estrela Amadora	10
Farense	10
Espinho	10
Setubal	10
Leca	10
Braga	10
Boavista	10
Salgueiros	10
Maritimo	10
Chaves	10
Belenenses	10
Guimaraes	10
Uniao Leiria	10

Gil Vicente	10
Rio Ave	10

Romania	
Steaua Bucharest	5
F.C. Chindia Tirg	1
A.S. Bacau	4
Ceahlaul Piatra Nea	0
Otelul Galati	3
Gloria Bistrita	0
F.C. Brasov	6
F.C. Farul Constanta	2
Rapid Bucharest	3

Table	
Steaua Bucharest	15
F.C. National Buch	15
Otelul Galati	15
Dinamo Bucharest	15
Univ. Satele Cluj	15
Jiul Petrosani	15
Rapid Bucharest	15
F.C. Arges Dacia Pit	15
F.C. Farul Constanta	15
Sportul Studentesc	15
Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt	15
F.C. Chindia Tirg	14
A.S. Bacau	15
Universitatea Craiova	15
F.C. Petrolul Ploiesti	15
F.C. Brasov	15
Gloria Bistrita	15
Politehnica Timisoara	14



Russia	
Spartak Moscow	
Russian Champions	
Play-off for the Russian premier league championship	
Spartak Moscow	2
Alania Vladikavkaz	1

Table	
Spartak Moscow	34
Alania Vladikavkaz	34
Rotor Volgograd	34
Dynamo Mosc	34
CSKA Moscow	34
Lokomotiv Mosc	34
Baltika Kalining	34
LokNizh Novgo	34
Krylya Sov Sam	34
Zenit St Petersburg	34
Rostselmash Ros	34
Torpedo Moscow	34
Chernovoross	34
KAZ NabChelny	34
Zhemchuz Sochi	34
UralYekaterin	34
TekstilKamyshin	34
Lada Togliatti	34

Scotland	
Premier Division	
Celtic	0
Aberdeen	3
Hearts	0
Kilmarnock	2
Raith	1

Table	
Rangers	12
Celtic	12
Aberdeen	12
Hearts	13
Dunfermline	12
Hibernian	12

Motherwell	13
Dundee United	12
Kilmarnock	12
Raith	12

Division One	
St. Johnstone	3
Airdrieonians	0
Clydebank	1
Dundee	0
St Mirren	1
Stirling	2

Table	
St Johnstone	13
St Mirren	14
Falkirk	14
Partick	13
Airdrieonians	14
Dundee	14
Greenock Morton	13
Clydebank	14
Stirling	14
East Fife	13

Division Two	
Berwick	1
Brechin	1
Queen of South	1
Stenhousemuir	0
Stranraer	0

Table	
Ayr	14
Livingston	14
Hamilton	14
Clyde	14
Queen of the Sth	14
Stenhousemuir	14
Stranraer	13
Brechin	13
Dumbarton	14
Berwick	14

Division Three	
Albion	1
Cowdenbeath	2
East Stirling	2
Forfar	3
Inverness	2

Table	
Cowdenbeath	14
Albion	14
Inverness	14
Montrose	14
Ross County	14
Forfar	14
Alloa	14
Queen's Park	14
Arbroath	14
East Stirling	14

Spain	
Sevilla	1
Zaragoza	2
Sporting Gijon	2
Racing Santander	1
Real Sociedad	3
Logrones	0
Atletico Madrid	2
Valencia	0
Tenerife	3
Deportivo Coruna	0

Table	
Barcelona	12
Deportivo Coruna	13
Real Madrid	12
Valladolid	12
Real Betis	12
Atletico Madrid	13
Athletic Bilbao	12
Racing Santander	12
Real Sociedad	12
Tenerife	12
Rayo Vallecano	12
Valencia	12
Espanyol	13
Oviedo	12
Sevilla	12
Celta Vigo	12
Sporting Gijon	12
Compostela	13
Logrones	12
Zaragoza	12
Hercules	12
Extremadura	12

Switzerland	
Basle	0
Servette	0
Young Boys	1
Zurich	3
St Gallen	1

Lucerne	1
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Table	
Neuchatel	20
Grasshopper	20
Sion	20
Lausanne	20
Aarau	20
St. Gallen	20
Zurich	20
Servette	20
Basle	20
Lucerne	20
Lugano	20
Young Boys	20

Yugoslavia	
Division A	
Cukaricki	1
Vojvodina	5
Mladost (L)	1
Rad	0
Becej	2
Red Star	3

Table	
Partizan	13
Red Star	13
Vojvodina	13
Zemun	13
Mladost (L)	13
Proleter	13
Becej	13
Buducnost (P)	13
Hajduk	13
Rad	13
Cukaricki	13
Borac	13

National Youth League Results	
Round 5 November 10	
Newcastle Breakers	3
QAS	3
Sydney United	1
NSW IS	5

Table	
UTS Olympic	4
AIS	4
Newcastle Break	4
Marconi Fairfield	4
Sydney United	4
QAS	4
NSW IS	4
Wollongong City	4
Marconi Fai Colts	4
UTS Oly Colts	3
ACT AS	4
Sydney Utd Colts	5

Sunsmart National Youth League	
Para Hills	1
SASI	2
West Adelaide	0
Adelaide City	1

Table	
SASI	4
Adelaide City	4
Modbury	4
West Adelaide	4
Adelaide Blue Eag	4
Woodville City	4
Cumberland Utd	4
Para Hills	4

Victorian Division	
Bentleigh Greens	3
Sunshine Georgies	1
Box Hill	1
Heidelberg United	6
South Melbourne	3
Melbourne Knights	2
Thomastown Zebras	0

Table	
VIS	6
South Melbourne	6
Sunshine Georgies	6
Gippsland Falcons	6
Melb Knights	6
Melb Knights Colt	6
C'wood Warriors	5
Bentleigh Greens	5
Green Gully	6
Heidelberg United	6
S'vale City Reds	6
T'town Zebras	5
Altona Magic	6
Box Hill	5

WORLD STORIES

BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS IN PORTUGAL

Portugal's soccer authorities, battling a series of bribery allegations, have pledged to tighten rules to prevent a recurrence of the scandals rocking the domestic game.

Promising tough action against anybody found guilty of bribery, the Portuguese Football Federation said last week that it would introduce new regulations covering the behaviour of referees. In a statement, the Federation said that it would study "changes to statutes and rules...that can contribute to the prevention of

the type of situation that has been seen recently".

The rules would spell out, for example, precisely what referees would be allowed to accept in the way of presents or souvenirs from football clubs. Portuguese football has been plunged into crisis by the allegations of attempted match-fixing, with the most serious case involving accusations that Porto sought to bribe a referee ahead of a European match against Aberdeen 12 years ago.

Businessman Fernando Barata has told police that he was asked to approach the

Romanian referee in charge of the game and offer him money to secure a 3-0 win for the Portuguese side in the home leg. Porto won both legs of the 1984 Cup Winners' Cup semifinal 1-0. Both Porto and the match official have denied any bribery attempt was made.

Porto, the reigning Portuguese league champion, are also at the centre of another controversy over the payment of a holiday in Brazil for a leading referee. The club has officially admitted that it picked up the \$4,600 bill but says that it did so without realising who it was for.

UEFA has demanded a thorough investigation of the various charges and accusations.

Portugal's first and second divisions are run by the Portuguese Football League whose top officials can be drawn directly from the clubs. The League has already scheduled a special meeting for November 22 when members could vote to bar top officials from being simultaneously directors of individual clubs.

JOHANSSON IN TROUBLE

UEFA Chief Lennart Johansson has found himself at the centre of controversy after racist comments about Africans attributed to him were published in the Swedish daily Aftonbladet last week.

In the article, Johansson described the situation at a recent meeting in South Africa when FIFA president Joao Havelange wanted to single-handedly give the 2006 World Cup to Africa, a move the Swede felt should be decided by FIFA's executive committee.

"When I arrived in South Africa, the whole room was full of blackies, and it gets damned dark when they're

sitting there together. If they're also angry, then it's not so cheery," he said, according to Aftonbladet.



Lennart Johansson: In trouble for alleged racist remarks

Johansson today told the Swedish news agency TT he did not recall exactly what he had said and could therefore not deny the remark.

"I don't recognise those words. I said that it was dark in the room and that there was an aggressive atmosphere. That was what I wanted to describe," he said.

"I can only say that I have never had racist ideas or attitudes. If such an impression was created and if I have offended anyone then I can only apologise."

The 67-year old Swede has worked hard to promote football in Africa, and was in South Africa to accept an award from the African equivalent of UEFA for his efforts.

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

Here is a selection from the latest FIFA World Ranking list issued at the end of October.

Australia moved up three places while New Zealand slipped 33 slots to 135.

Papua New Guinea came into the Rankings for the first time.

The Czech Republic are now fourth, a ten place gain. Colombia shifted up to eight and England to number 12.

South Africa has entered the Top 20 as have Japan.

With more internationals, surely Australia's ranking will go up providing of course that the team wins.

Rankings			Rankings		
Rank	Team	Rank End of 95	Rank	Team	Rank End of 95
1	Brazil	1	15	Mexico	12
2	Germany	2	16	Zambia	25
3	France	8	17	Argentina	7
4	Czech Republic	14	18	Norway	10
5	Italy	3	19	South Africa	40
6	Denmark	9	20	Japan	31
7	Russia	5	21	Bulgaria	17
8	Colombia	15	48	Australia	51
9	Netherlands	6	135	New Zealand	102
10	Spain	4	154	Tahiti	156
11	Sweden	13	155	Fiji	139
12	England	21	168	Papua New Guinea	new
13	Portugal	16	169	Solomon Islands	170
14	Romania	11	178	Vanuatu	179

CHARGES OVER STADIUM TRAGEDY

The head of the Guatemalan Football Association's selection committee has been formally charged with responsibility for the deaths of 79 fans.

An initial fine of \$A63,590 was dropped by the court, allowing the official, Ernesto Villa, to go free. But he must report to a judge once a month as part of the criminal proceedings brought against him.

He is charged with second-

degree murder for overcrowding at the Mateo Flores Stadium that triggered the fatal human avalanche, officials said.

Prosecutors maintain that the Guatemala and Costa Rica World Cup qualifier on October 16 was oversold by nearly 100 per cent. They said 67,000 tickets, both genuine and counterfeit, were sold when the stadium's maximum capacity was 37,000.

In the stadium trial, the president of the Autonomous

Guatemalan Sports Confederation, Soccer Federation President and Selection general coordinator would also be called on to testify, officials said.

Thirteen people have been arrested so far in connection with the tragedy, including two ticket sellers and the manager of the Municipal football team, who was responsible for gate security on the night of the match.

NO FOREIGN COACHES: RASIC

by ROBBIE WHEATLEY

The vexed question surrounding the appointment of a National coach took a sudden deflection late last week.

Soccer Australia divulged it was considering the appointment of two full time coaches - one home and one away.

I contacted several of Australia's highest profile coaches, both past and present, who felt the issue was nothing short of a potential 'own goal' for the National body.

The suggestion of foreign coaches also received a chilly response.

Former National team supremo Rale Rasic was clear and unequivocal.

The concept (dual coaches) is idiotic. Do we want someone to coach by ISD? Nowhere else in the world would this even be

considered. With the issue rapidly approaching crisis point this is radical even by David Hill's standards.

On Sports Australia's KICK OFF program Berti Mariani aired his views.

"I don't like the idea of a dual coach. It is ad hoc and has no validity. One person has the responsibility as the full time professional coach and this means coaching local and overseas players."

"The successful appointment must come from the heart, be Australian based with someone who has a feel for the teams and will make sacrifices," Mariani added.

For Collingwood Warriors coach and heavily backed as the Socceroo replacement Zoran Matic is typically straightforward.

"You only need one mind in whatever you do, not mixed minds, just one idea. I'm not here to push

myself but it is my way or no way," Matic delivered.

Quite clearly the reduced time frame SA had thrust upon them by the sudden exit from the National forum by Eddie Thomson has done two things.

Firstly, little available time has blocked a long term visionary approach for the decision makers.

Secondly, many of the local candidates are already club committed further clouding their transition to the top.

Accordingly Rasic highlights these points to enhance the theme of local is best.

"Venables is a highly respected manager but a British coach, in general, knows how to work with British players. Our style of football is a mix of Continental British and South American."

"The coaches on the local scene are responsible for all the players abroad. They are a product of the

Aussie system."

"Overseas coaches have little or no knowledge of Aussie players or matches over the past 20 years. Our style of football is representative of our multicultural society."

And with less than 60 days to the four nation tournament in January the question of style of football and personnel used is also in the air.

"Great teams live and practice together. For 16 years Scotland did not qualify for the World Cup with so many players out of the country. The same can be said of Portugal. Players must be totally committed," Rasic asserted.

"Essentially it becomes a question of whether the overseas players are willing to give everything professionally. If its not practicable it equals non selection in my books."

"There is no exact formula, but Arok had it about right with 3 or 4 players as in 1989," Rasic added.

Matic felt that a crisis, regarding appointment of a National coach, has not been reached as the opposition was 'fairly light' in the beginning Oceania qualification matches.

"However on face value more commitment from the players is needed and material points should go out the window."

Caretaker coach Raul Blanco is one of the front runners for the home based job.

Understandably he wants a decision to be made quickly, yes it needs a solution, and SA knows it is an important option.

He remains excited, however, by the upcoming scenario.

"We have unbelievable talent overseas, players training full time, playing in front of big crowds and they have an important role to play."

The two game series against Tahiti showed the local players have strong claims but when you mention

green and gold it means the best possible team.

The general consensus about a successful Socceroo side revolves around a content and happy unit.

A team based totally around overseas based players is absolutely naive. Great players don't make great teams. Minnows on the world scene can make a mockery of qualification with ordinary teams as the 1982 New Zealand outfit did.

The keywords on coaching or players must reverberate around balance, commitment and sacrifice.

As for conjecture linking Jack Charlton to the National post Rasic adds:

"His style is one match above floodlights, one below floodlights and never one on the surface. The midfield would have neck injuries."

The critical search continues.

**MARCONI
FAIRFIELD**



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News in Brief



... by BOB BROOKS



70,000 people filled the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg when South Africa's Under 20 side were held to a 1-1 draw by the Young Socceroos.

Australia's team was: Milosevic, Zelic, Emerton, Colosimo, Osman (Blatts 64), Garcia, Damianos (Baser 81), Vargas, Salapsidis, Curcija, Mezensof (Maisano 60).

That must have been a thrilling experience for the tennagers, one that only the World Game can bring.



David Cooper, Media Liaison officer at NSW Soccer Federation headquarters is compiling a list of players who have taken part in that organisation's competitions since 1957.

This will be an important historical document and of great value to future researchers. If you can assist please give 'Coop' a call at 02 9629 1800.



Bob Hagan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canterbury Leagues Club in Sydney is an enthusiastic proponent of the move to Belmore Oval by UTS Olympic.

There has been a complaint or two about the playing surface at Belmore. Hagan asks for patience. The turf is new this year and has yet to mat together.

Plenty of water is being lavished on it and everything should be fine by Christmas. Things weren't helped by a drier than normal October which is the start of the growing season.



The argument and dispute at Breakers Stadium between two of the Topper Breakers players was witnessed by most people in the grandstand.

Our informants, not the usual correspondents, tell us that the 'buttor' received four stitches to his head while the 'buttee' needed three.

Maybe the 'buttor' has

learned his lesson. However the 'buttee' is a fiery character on the park.



The former coach of Morwell (now Gippsland) Falcons, Harry Bingham is settled in to Toowoomba, west of Brisbane.

Bingham is the Regional Director of Coaching. His 'beat' covers the Darling Downs, a rich agricultural area, out beyond Roma. Surprisingly grapes are grown and wine is produced at Roma, better known for the natural gas supplies nearby.

Warwick and the Stanthorpe Granite Belt comes within Bingham's grasp. Stanthorpe also produces grapes but is better known for its apples. Also Harry can go and see the snow in that area during cooler winters.

He takes in the Strikers games when they are at the well appointed Suncorp Stadium.

If you're looking for games for elite teams contact Harry Bingham on 076 393 080.



The Thailand Under 16 team is in Parramatta right now. They are playing three games. One is tomorrow night against a Parramatta Eagles selection at Melita Stadium.

The visit is arranged because of the Sister City relationship between Parramatta, Australia's second oldest settlement, and Phetchaburi a former Royal capital.

Thailand qualified for the U17 World Cup in Egypt to be held April 1997. They finished second in the recent Asian Confederation Championships held in



Thailand. Oman beat them for first place 1-0 in the Final.



Robert Forrai, a long time resident and coach in the Kuringai area on Sydney's North Shore, rings from time to time. This week he wanted to discuss the matter of the moment the national coach.



Forrai's theory is two coaches just won't work and he quoted an old Hungarian saying, "Each pub can only have one gypsy."

Loosely translated it is as follows. Gypsy violinists are often employed to entertain guests in pubs or restaurants. However there is only room for one in each establishment otherwise there will be a major dispute between the two for supremacy. Good point, Robert.



Not often heard is a joke about Soccer maybe we all take it too seriously! So here



goes.

A company representative was near Liverpool in England on business and the Reds were playing at home. So he drove his car close to Anfield and parked it. A young boy came up to him and tried to sell him some insurance for his car.

The salesman refused saying he was already insured with a major British company.

The boy told him that he had parked his car in a dangerous area and said the insurance was just one pound sterling.

The salesman explained, again, that he already had insurance and a very sophisticated car alarm.

The lad again told him how very, very dangerous it was in that area for parked cars.

The salesman repeated about his insurance, the alarm added to which was an alsation dog in the back seat.

The response was, "How good is your dog at fighting fires?"



Outdoor, Indoor, Futsal, Street and starting to move along Beach. All variations on the game where the ball is generally played without the use of hands, Association Football, Soccer, the World Game.

Confusing? Not really. The aim of all variants is to score more goals than the opponents.

Street Soccer is for boys and girls 10-16 years of age. It's fast and furious according to the publicity. Wasn't it so when us folks played it as kids? A schoolyard game, with a tennis ball, could involve dozens on each side. It was difficult to get the pill.

Puma Street Soccer is different. Each team consists of five players for a start. Competitions are being

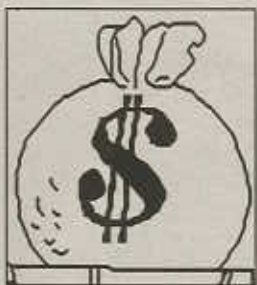
organised in all States and Territories except Western Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

The NSW Championships will be held at Darling Harbour, the end of the second week of January and then continue in Parramatta Mall a few days later. At least there's no chance of having to retrieve the ball from the water in the Mall!

NSW's State Final is again at Darling Harbour this time on Sunday 2 February. The National Finals follow.

The older age group Australian Champions, those 14-16, travel later in 1997 to the World Finals in Europe.

Give your State Soccer HQ a call for entry forms and further information.



Stories abound of two substantial sponsorships about to be announced. One is between a sports footwear company and a very new Soccer Club.

The other is with a major international food manufacturer and an unknown, as yet, club.

We're talking here of seven figures! Stand by.

The APFA Club will rise from the ashes, like a phoenix.



The original APFA Club at Leichhardt with its stunning water views and where it was possible to arrive by boat, moor and go ashore is no more. The premises have changed hands. A wedding reception company is now the owner.

However a group of former high profile members have bought the

name and will be opening licensed premises before Christmas. Opposite Concord Oval is the former Bowling Club and that is where the new APFA Club will be located.

As the crow flies the 'old' and the 'new' are about five kilometres apart. Added to which Concord Oval beckons. The rugger types seem to have abandoned this all seater venue!



Discreet discussions are under way between a major licensed club in Sydney's west and two former national league Clubs from the surrounding area. It is hoped the talks will lead to an eventual bid for a place in the Ericsson Cup.

Now Concord Oval might be a good place to play!

The basic philosophy of the proposed new entity is a team for anyone and everyone in Sydney.

It is probable that any existing Club joining the new standardbearer would buy shares and take a proportionate number of places of the Board.



Soccer Australia appreciate the efforts of Wollongong City in entertaining their spectators.

With three home games behind them, there's no doubt that the Wolves have proved themselves trendsetters.

A helicopter landed on the pitch for the first home game carrying Atlanta Olympic Games competitors. Then a stretch limo deposited the Cheer Squad and the wolf.

The Wollongong players were brought on by truck.

Against Newcastle the home team were million

passengers from the TV show Gladiators has done her thing and 'Sumo' wrestling has been an attraction.

John Dennison, from the Wolves marketing team, has probably something up his sleeve for this week's game at Brandon Park against Marconi.



After the game in Canberra between Australia and Tahiti, the players joined specially invited guests for refreshments.

Towards midnight players from Sydney decided it was time to leave the national capital to be ready for their clubs games less than 24 hours later. At least some of them did this, showing a truly professional attitude.

However, one highly promising international decided to try out Canberra's Casino and left it rather late, for his run home. This showed in the player's insipid performance for his club later that day.



A report has come in from the Sydney World Cup that Cyprus North beat Chile in the Final on Saturday by 3 goals to Nil. Todorovski was dominant in midfield and scored one of the goals.

Thanks to goalkeeper Navarrette, Chile were saved from a heavier defeat.

Spain took out the U/18 Final by 4-1 over arch rival Portugal.

While the Veterans of Soccer defeated the 'Auld Enemy', England 2-0.



Read that a fox held up the game at Park Head between Celtic and Rangers makes you wonder just where the cunning animal came from.

Understand there's not exactly open country all around the ground.

Wonder if someone keeps chooks in the maintenance area?

Aussies Abroad...

By HENRY WIZGIER

Aussies Abroad will welcome the selection of Terry Venables as the Australian National Football Coach. They will know someone up there is likely to be watching them and not just relying on second-hand reports faxed or telephoned halfway around the world like Thommo did (through no fault of his own).

Although we usually run the news a week behind it is pleasing to bring you bang up to date on Paul Okon who is back in the Lazio line-up. He played the full game away against Napoli in the Italian Cup Quarter Finals last week which alas the Romans lost

again 0-1, though this was only the First Leg, so they are still alive.

On Sunday, Paul put in a sterling performance to help the Romans finally get back onto the winning track, with a fine 3-1 win at lowly Piacenza.

That victory gives the Romans 3 valuable points which takes them one spot away from the cellar dwellers but more importantly, gives them a confidence booster following a series of defeats which includes an early exit from the UEFA Cup.

What is interesting though is that this resurgence seems to coincide with Paul Okon's return. Is it just a coincidence - or is the Aussie boy exerting

such a strong influence on a side which includes such illustrious World Stars like Signori, Casiraghi and Nedved?

A quiet week in the top echelon of Euro Club Football due to World Cup qualifiers but of course plenty of action in the lower English Leagues where the bulk of Aussies seem to be earning a crust.

For the last 12 minutes of the match there were four Aussies on view at Ashton Gate where Bristol City and Millwall fought out a dour 1-1 draw. Paul Agostino (pictured right) was joined by David Seal who came on as a sub for the 'Robins'

while it was nice to see Jason Van Blerk back in the Millwall side alongside ever-present Lucas Neill. Even nicer to see their team sitting on top of Division Two. For those who criticise Aussies for preferring to play in the lower English leagues to the Ericsson, it might interest them to know that this actual 'third-division' encounter drew a crowd of over 12,000.





WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR



National League = Maximum Effect

The National League, due to kickoff in just two and a half weeks time, is really putting women's soccer out there in the public eye.

Over this past week, exposure via major newspapers and national television has started the ball rolling. Unfortunately with the launch of women's cricket's national league also in the spotlight, a little of the impact was lost, but soccer's campaign is yet to reach its climax.

The highlight so far has been the debut national television appearance by Aussie midfielder Louise McMurtrie on Channel Nine's "Today" show. Appearing with cricket star Zoe Goss last Wednesday, McMurtrie presented herself very well.

The formation of a national league elevates our sport to a higher level of professionalism, and is a vital marketing, publicity and development tool. It makes for top level competition, and puts our best players on the stage for all to see, most importantly in each of the six States.

Women's footballers and supporters from all levels must show their support for

the league, and also introduce others to the sport by encouraging them to take a look. Being held over the summer, the league is perfectly timed to tie in 'come and try' clinics and similar activities, thereby reaping the benefits with player recruitment just in time for the next winter season. Role models and just the simple messages that 'girls do play soccer' and 'soccer is fun' are still the most effective impetus to bring in new players.

The format for the inaugural national league is perhaps somewhat different to other sports' leagues, but in no way is it inferior. As a starting point, this league more than holds its own. No league has ever started off with the full complement of States represented, and the three non-ITC States should not feel left out, with their top players drafted into one of the six teams.

The six rounds of the league are locked into place with four of the venues so far confirmed, and all top quality football venues:

However the finals round, set down for 20-24 March in Canberra, is on hold at present, pending a decision regarding Australian Team

Make sure you have these National League dates set in your diary.

6-8 December	Canberra
13-15 December	Sydney
7-9 February	Melbourne
14-16 February	Newcastle
21-23 February	Adelaide
28 Feb-2 March	Brisbane
20-24 March	Canberra - Finals (tbc)

Stay tuned for complete draw and team profiles over the next two weeks.

Football Venues:

Canberra:	Australian Institute of Sport
Sydney:	Croatian Sports Centre, Edensor Park
Newcastle:	Breakers Stadium
Brisbane:	Perry Park

competition. AWSA has submitted an expression of interest to compete in the Algarve Cup, which clashes with the finals dates.

The Algarve Cup, one of the most prestigious tournaments in women's football, is held each year in Portugal, with the

organisation of the event alternated between Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Joining these four nations is Finland, with three others to be invited. With interest high for those last three spots, a decision on the teams will not be known for at least a fortnight.



The work is on in earnest to ensure the January visit of Olympic Gold Medallists USA is an event to remember.

AWSA Chief Executive Warren Fisher was in Melbourne last week checking out potential top class venues for the occasion, and received positive feedback from people willing to promote the event.

The US Team management has indicated its preference to play a match in Sydney, with the full tour itinerary open-ended regarding venues for the remaining matches. At present AWSA is considering moving the series around to three or four centres in all, although this may not be the end result. The process will need to take into consideration what the States

can offer to the success of the event, and also what benefits such a fixture will bring to the State. In addition to Sydney and Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane look to be also in the running.

"This is the most important series we've ever hosted in Australia," stressed Fisher. "The choice of venues will depend on the response of those cities in terms of spectators, and our ability to recoup our expenses. The initial response from Victoria at government, club and corporate level is positive. A lot of people are recognising this is day one of the Olympic Team promoting itself on to 2000."

There is also the possibility of tying in matches with Soccer Australia's Four Nation Tournament where the

Socceroos will take on New Zealand, Korea and Denmark, although the men themselves will be playing double headers. Whether or not the two events are held in combination, soccer will certainly be in the headlines over January.

In the meantime, following celebrations of Olympic victory, and allowing the Squad members a rest after seven months of full-time training, the US national teams program cranks up again straight after Christmas. The USA U20 Team will join with the National Team for a combined training camp in San Diego from 5-12 January, before the Olympic champions board a plane bound for Australia on 19 January.

USA BACKS FEMALE COACH

The US Soccer Federation has appointed Lauren Gregg to the position of full-time Head Coach of the National U20 Women's Team, as well as full-time Assistant Coach of the US National Team.

This is the first time a female has been appointed as full-time Head Coach of a US national team.

Gregg's direct involvement in both teams will make for more of an overlapping of the two programs and assist the younger players to make the transition.

36 year old Gregg has an impressive history in soccer both as a player and now as coach. A highly successful



collegiate player, Gregg progressed to the National Team in the mid 80s. The switch to coaching has brought her a record second to none. An instant success in the college system, Gregg was named the National Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1990.

In 1989 she became the first female to work as an assistant coach for any US national team, and was there when the US captured the inaugural World Cup crown in 1991, and of course in Atlanta for the Olympic victory. Gregg holds a US Soccer 'A'

coaching license.

HAMM TAKES HONOURS

US forward Mia Hamm has been named the US Soccer Federation's 1996 Female Athlete of the Year. The title also puts Hamm in the running for the US Olympic Committee's Sportswoman of the Year award, to be announced later this year.

At just 24 years of age, Hamm makes history with this the third consecutive occasion she has taken out this prestigious award.

Even with a badly sprained

ankle, Hamm played a hero's role in USA's Olympic Games victory. Contributing one assist, Hamm also created the two-on-one break that resulted in the gold medal winning goal over China. USA's only falter in Atlanta was a scoreless draw against China in the opening round, the one match that Hamm missed due to the ankle injury.

Women's soccer in America has as many statistics as basketball, and Hamm is at or near the top for assists,

goals and consecutive starts. Considered the best allround player in the world, Hamm illustrated the fact when called on to play forward, midfield and even goalkeeper in last year's World Cup.

Criteria for the award includes competition and excellence at the highest level of soccer offered by US Soccer; decorum on and off the field; and contribution towards soccer's popularisation, acceptance and credibility in the US.

Hamm holds the record as the youngest player to represent USA at full international level, making her debut at age 15 against China in 1987. At nineteen, she was the youngest member of the US Team which contested the 1991 World Cup, starting in five of the six matches, and amongst the goalscorers list. Today her tally stands at 120 caps with 63 goals.



NEUSS FINALIST FOR COACH AWARD

ACT's Katrina Neuss has been named as a finalist for the Australian Coaching Council's Young Female Coach of the Year award. Neuss led the ACT Junior Team to the State's first ever National Championship title in 1995, then backed up this year to repeat the effort.

An NCAS Level 2 accredited coach, Neuss is also coach of the 'feeder' program for the ACT Academy of Sport outfit, and also assistant coach of the ACT Senior Team.

In this Olympic year, over 70 nominations from 31 sports were received

for the four categories of coaching awards. "Nominations for the Young Coach of the Year awards reflect the new generation of coaches coming through in the Australian sporting arena," said Peter Corcoran, ACC Board chairman.

Neuss faces some stiff opposition with Sydney Flames basketball coach and Assistant National Coach Carrie Graf also in the running. Susan Emerson (deaf basketball) and Lisa Newman-Morris (trampoline) are the other two finalists.

The awards ceremony will be held in Brisbane on 30 November.



PLAYERS MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

During last week's National Training Camp at the AIS Canberra, the hard work was put out to the players that a greater effort needs to be made for Australia to move forward in international ranks.

Significant progress has been made over the last year, but elite development is essentially about constant improvement.

"We talked about being a footballer as opposed to just playing football," said National Coach Tom Sermanni. "Gone are the days when players train two nights a week and everything is comfortable. Things are serious now."

"Players themselves need to work on the intensity of how they do things. They must start to take the responsibility to their approach to training, and pick up their games overall. The players must take more initiative."

"It's really about taking the next step," he added. "The resources have been put in place. Players in the system have more resources in every aspect than the professional players in Europe. With physiologists, trainers, coaches at

their fingertips, nobody has an excuse."

"The full-time coaches around the States should be getting tested by the players wanting extra work, requesting special sessions to work on particular aspects of their game."

"There are exciting times ahead, geared towards developing and improving the players. The national league for example will give opportunities to ninety players, whereas those resources could have been used for a group of just eighteen. Yet these opportunities (to be flexible with team selections) will not always be there."

The advice should be taken as a warning, especially for those who have already reached National Team status. No player owns her position at the top, and with so much exciting young talent emerging now, Sermanni has made it clear he will not hesitate to give new players a chance.

"We've now got a base - greater depth, which gives me more options. If players are not improving or drop off in performance, we've got other people there. There's no problem for me to throw in new players."

TERRY VENABLES



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LEE DENIES CLUB IN TROUBLE

Francis Lee, Chairman of struggling Manchester City, is ready to throw the writs about like confetti after the latest allegations by certain members of the press. Lee angrily denied reports that the club is 26 million pounds (\$52m) in debt. Stories abound that the Maine Road Club is subsiding under such incredible debts.

City have had to come to terms with losing manager Steve Coppell after just 32 days in the job and will announce a loss of more than three million over the last financial year to shareholders

at next month's annual meeting.

However, the Chairman, who informed Coppell's No. 2 Phil Neal that he has eight games to prove himself right for the No. 1 job, insisted the figures were misleading.

He said, "They don't take into account several million pounds worth of loan stock which greatly reduces the figure. The reports that we are 26m pounds in debt are consistently wrong."

He finished the brief statement with, "The people who are making these statements are going to get a handful of legal documents."



VALE Tommy Lawton

Sadly we record the passing of Tommy Lawton. The former Burnley, Everton, Chelsea, Notts County, Brentford and England star passed away last week at the age of 77.

He signed professional forms for Burnley on his 17th birthday and scored a hat-trick a few days later against Tottenham Hotspur.

He had the ideal build for a centre forward and was brilliant in the air. Lawton had a powerful shot and he became one of the most prolific natural goal scorers of all time.

Mr Lawton was signed by Everton for 6,500 (\$13,000) where he was to replace the legendary Dixie Dean before

moving on to Chelsea in 1945. He played in the memorable friendly against Moscow Dynamos in 1947.

Such was his talent that it prompted Notts County to make him the first 20,000 pounds (\$40,000) transfer in November 1947 at a time when he was still playing for England and a threat to the best of defences.

By 1952 it was considered that he was past his prime and it was Brentford that brought the Bolton born lad back to 'the smoke' and here he finished his playing days whereupon it was Arsenal who employed his services to 'bring on the younger players', until he moved to Kettering as Manager.

In the best traditions of

international centre-forwards, Tommy Lawton played 23 times for England and was also an English League representative and won England U/23 honours. In all, he played over 278 league games and scored some 150 league goals during his career and was a great advertisement for this great game.

We offer his family and friends our sincere condolences.

Also condolences to the family of Eddie Lyons who spent 30 years with Brentford in a coaching/training capacity. Without the unsung heroes of the game, our sport wouldn't be what it is.



Robson has player headache

After selling Nick Barmby to Everton for almost 6m pounds, Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson has a new headache. He kept Brazilian Juninho instead of Barmby and stated they couldn't play together but now Juninho has blasted English football and has served notice he wants to play in Italy.

This has come on top of fellow countryman Emerson threatening never to play for the club again after his wife couldn't settle in the north east and left Juninho saying, "If any offers come in from Italy, I am ready to discuss them."

His agent has already held talks with two Serie A clubs - Inter Milan and Roma allegedly - and the Brazilian appears ready to join the queue wanting to leave the Riverside Stadium. "I believe my best prospects



lie with Inter Milan," said Juninho. "I could also be a success with Juventus and AC Milan. The real problem with much of English football is its structure. Even the tiniest of clubs in Italy are better organised than those in England. The only guarantee you have here, are your earnings," he concluded.

For mine, it must be terrible to be promised payment for doing your job! Perhaps it would be nice if a manager could guarantee regular first team football but it's impossible of course. A case of sour grapes maybe?

Venables for Australia?

The debate still rages over the story last week as to the validity of Terry Venables becoming involved with the Australian National side and according to reports from the UK, the 53 year old former England manager is supposedly weighing up the audacious offer to lead Australia into the 1998 World Cup Finals in France.

It is rumoured that Soccer Australia see him as the ideal man to monitor the majority of the 150 Aussie players now playing their trade mainly in Europe and to help in restructuring the national team set-up after Eddie Thomson quit 3 weeks ago. Mr Venables said, "I have not heard anything official. I have

a lot of options at the moment and am just biding my time."

Quite rightly, Soccer Australia will not be drawn on the subject as it may, or may not prejudice events now taking place. Once again, according to sources in the UK, a spokesperson for the Australian governing body said, "We have to retain confidentiality but we are speaking to a number of overseas coaches. We believe we are offering one of the great jobs in world soccer."

Controversial it may be but Soccer Australia hope to be able to make an announcement by the middle of December. Stay tuned.

Fulham leading Competition

I've been asked to mention 'little' Fulham by a certain gentleman in Wollongong as they are still top of the 3rd Division by a margin of 4 points at time of writing. I hope this is to your liking Mr Fontana and is the cheque in the post or what?



Johnny Haynes: Former Fulham great. He played 50 times for England from 1954-62

**ON
THE
WIRELESS**

Don't forget to join us every Wednesday night at 'Soccer Stop' for all the latest on local and international football. Tomorrow night should see, technical hitches permitting?? a chat with a couple of lads from Everton Football Club in our 'mystery guest' slot. Not much of a mystery but this is due to problems last week and our apologies to all listeners. Tune in to "Soccer Stop" from 8.00-10.00pm every Wednesday (tomorrow!) night in Sydney on 1620AM Radio UNO and associated stations around this great state of NSW.

If you didn't listen last week, you missed Johnny Warren 'live' and a host of other interviews, jokes, news, reviews, previews and gossip from around the globe. Wouldn't want to do that again, now would you?

Unpopular Collymore FINED

Stan Collymore was fined one weeks wages - 20,000 pounds approx - for not turning up to play in a reserve game at Tranmere Rovers although he did score two goals in the following reserve team fixture.

Collymore was not a well liked person at previous club Nottingham Forest from where Liverpool procured his services for 8.5m pounds during the close season of 95/96 but rumours persist of him being unsettled at Anfield.

He has been linked with moves to Middlesbrough and even Leeds United in recent times and with the emergence of Patrick Berger, are his days numbered at England's most famous club? Berger has hit the English scene like a storm and seems to have built up an instant rapport with Robbie Fowler in an attack so there may be more to these rumours than meet the eye?

East Stirlingshire

BY STUART JONES

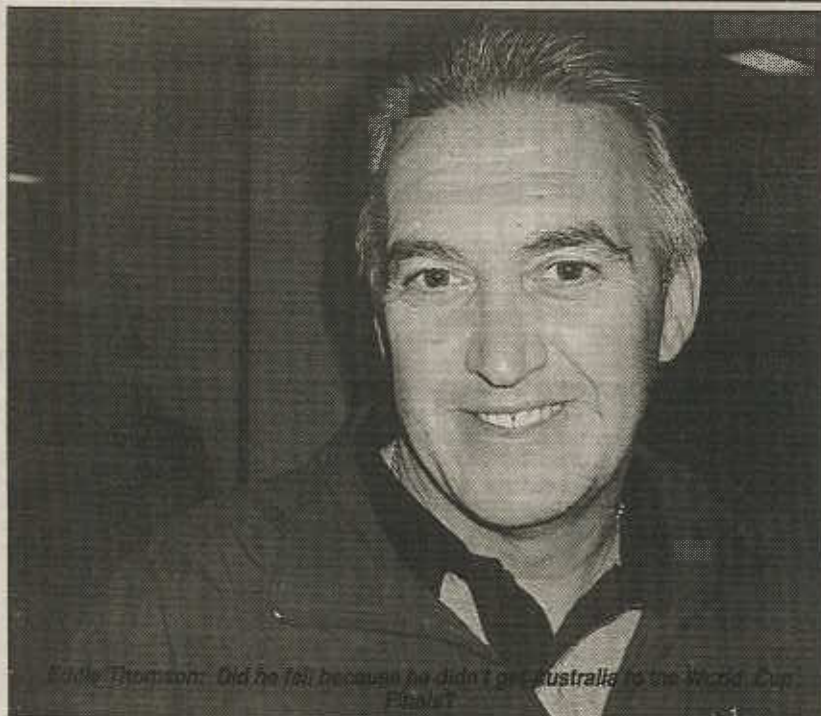
Ground:	Firs Park
Address:	Firs Street, Falkirk, FK2 7AY
Railway Station:	Grahamston (10 min walk)
Founded:	1880
Admitted to League:	1900
Ground Capacity:	1,880
Seats:	280
Pitch Size:	112* 72 yds
Largest Gate:	12,000 v Partick T, Scottish Cup 3rd Rd 19 Feb 1921
Biggest Win:	11-2 v Vale of Bannock, Scottish Cup 2nd Rd 22 Sept 1888
Heaviest Defeat:	1-12 v Dundee Utd Div 2, 13 April 1936
Nickname:	The Shire
Colours:	Black and White (hoops)
Honours:	League: Division 2; 1931-32 C Division; 1947-48

History: In 1880 the club was formed as Bainsford Britannia, the club's first home being Randyford Park. That ground had been home to East Stirlingshire cricket club previously and that is where the club adopted its name. Falkirk had recently vacated the ground so "The Shire" moved in. The club then moved to Merchiston Park before moving again, this time to Firs Park, in 1921. Firs Park was officially opened in 1921. The club were not completely happy with the new ground as it was closer to Falkirk than Bainsford, but in August 1921 the club played against Hearts in a friendly for the first time on Firs Park soil. In 1964 the directors of the club looked into transferring to Clydebank, one of a few proposals to move. This one had more success and for one season the club played as ES Clydebank at New Kilbowie Park. However Shire's shareholders won a 12 month legal battle to bring the club back to Falkirk. During the 12 months of the battle the ground was virtually ruined, however in 1965 the enclosure roof was rebuilt and new floodlights installed. However finances and club support are not on par with even a mildly successful team in Scotland. The club remains in the cellar division in Scotland.

ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS



10	Ian Wright (Arsenal)
8	Matthew Le Tissier (Southampton)
7	Fabrizio Ravanelli (Middlesbrough), Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
6	Marcus Gayle (Wimbledon) Dwight Yorke (Aston Villa) Robbie (Wimbledon), Gianluca Vialli (Chelsea)



Eddie Thomson: Did he fail because he didn't get Australia to the World Cup?

Weird and Wonderful

By STUART JONES

One season in and the same twelve teams lined up again. Of those 12 teams for the 1889-90 season only one not survive today. That team is Accrington who were formed in 1878. Colonel John Hargreaves was their first chairman and they were one of the founding members of the Football League. On the 18th of January 1896 Accrington played their last game. Accrington Stanley, who later played league football, were not related to Accrington.

Preston, after doing the double the previous season, repeated the Division One title, but this time lost four games along the way. The club these days play in the second division. Everton came runners up, the team has played more seasons in the top flight in England than any other. Blackburn and Wolves came third and fourth. Both these teams have money to spend as they try to revive the glory days, rovers more successfully than Wolves, on the pitch at least. Derby and Aston Villa are both in the top flight this season, as they were then. The other clubs included WBA, Bolton, and Stoke (currently in the first division) and Burnley and Notts County (in the second division). Stoke were not re-elected for the next season after finishing last with 10 points in 1889-90.

In the FA Cup Blackburn Rovers overcame Sheffield Wednesday at Kennington Oval 6-1 in the final to take out the cup. Wednesday had played league opposition in each round except the first, defeating Accrington, Notts County (after replaying the game due to a protest), and Bolton. Rovers had gone into the final firm favourites.

The scoreline at the finish remained a record until Bury won 6-0 in 1903. The scorers for Blackburn were Townley (3), Lofthouse, John Southworth, and Walton. Of the eight FA Cup tournaments rovers had lifted the Cup four times, including three in a row from 1884 until 1886, and they did not have Alan Shearer in the side either!!

Finally a note on the Australian coach. Rumours are now circulating that Mr Venables is being considered for the position. If we can afford him then maybe the critics are right and Soccer Australia did not put their heart into keeping Eddie Thomson. As for the criticism for thanking him for his valuable contribution, would these critics be heard days before the World Cup qualifiers against Argentina? Maybe they were quiet out of respect for the national side, wishing to support them in their finest hour. If this is the case then I admire them for supporting the team despite what they thought of the coach. Maybe the hard facts are that Eddie failed because they did not make the World Cup Finals — which is the obligation of any national coach, from Sierra Leone to New Zealand. His style may only be approved of by Arsenal supporters. However he was our coach and I like to be positive about all those involved in the game. Its much more easier to be critical from the stands, and there were times at the football stadium I became upset by his tactics. However I stand by thanking him for the job he has done and the development of players. It is believed that some of his fiercest public critics, privately thank him also.

He got along with most players, and flew the world to watch players from Lovell up to Okon. He also put his head on the line for his players, which many would not have done. It may be a sort of complement to him some talk of two coaches having to carry out the job now. In the end the facts may speak louder than anything else, and many of his critics will point to those facts.

LEAGUE TABLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston NE	22	8	1	2	41	12	7	2	2	30	18	33
Everton	22	8	2	1	40	15	6	1	4	25	25	31
Blackburn R	22	9	0	2	49	18	3	3	5	19	23	27
Wolves	22	6	3	2	28	14	4	2	5	23	24	25
WBA	22	8	1	2	36	20	3	2	5	10	30	25
Accrington	22	5	4	1	33	25	3	2	5	20	31	24
Derby Co	22	8	2	1	32	13	1	1	9	11	42	21
Aston villa	22	5	2	3	30	15	1	3	7	13	35	19
Bolton W	22	5	1	4	37	24	3	0	8	17	41	19
Notts Co	22	4	3	4	20	19	2	2	7	23	32	17
Burnley	22	4	1	7	20	21	1	4	5	15	33	13
Stoke	22	2	3	5	18	20	1	1	9	9	49	10

However I thank Mr Thomson for his valuable contribution as I do for all involved in this great game. and best of luck in the future Mr Thomson, maybe you will prove your critics wrong, and even if you don't I will never forget the games against Canada and Argentina.

There is one point however. We must not get carried away with just how good our players are. Yes we have a rich vein of talent these days compared to the past.

However we would still struggle against the big guns in the Finals of the World Cup. Otherwise our aim would not be to qualify but rather to win the World Cup.

Aussies overseas have done really well but, barring a few exceptions, they do not star say like the Africans do in Europe. Talking of Aussies overseas maybe I should have written a few weeks back "Nottingham forest replace well known Aussie Carbone with unknown Italian Carbone in shock move." One day perhaps...

As for returning to the past with Mr Rasic. He is a very fine person and a great coach, however past history shows that more often than not a second spell in charge of the same team is not as successful as the first. Let us look to the future with young coaches seeking advice from the likes of Rasic. On that point let us also honour our great coaches and players of the past. We don't seem to do much of that, where is a national football museum in this country? Whoever is coach of Australia I hope at the end of their term we will all be writing and thanking them for their wonderful contribution to the game in this greatest of all countries.

WORLD STORIES

EVERTON SWAMP SOUTHAMPTON

There was an avalanche of goals at Goodison Park where Everton went 5-0 up in the first 35 minutes against Southampton, recent 6-3 conquerors over Manchester United. The Liverpoolians finally won 7-1 with Gary Speed notching a hat-trick and Andrei Kanchelskis helping himself to a brace.



Les Ferdinand: Out with depressed fractured cheekbone for a month or more

Manchester United's misery ended in fortunate fashion on Saturday as a Nigel Winterburn own goal presented them with a 1-0 home win over fellow Premier League title challengers Arsenal.

The 63rd minute breakthrough was a scrappy affair. Ryan Giggs, in the starting line-up for the first time in seven games because of injury, threaded the ball through to Nicky Butt on his left. Defender Martin Keown intercepted with a strong back pass which posed problems for Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman, who managed only to knock the ball back out towards Butt. Seaman forced Butt to go wide but the United midfielder managed to put in a cross which Winterburn, in an attempt to turn it clear, succeeded only in chesting the ball into his own net.

Arsenal almost grabbed a late equaliser when striker Ian Wright was put clear inside the penalty area. But Peter Schmeichel, widely criticised

for his recent performances, blocked the shot magnificently.

The lone goal proved sufficient to end United's run of three league defeats and revived their hopes of retaining the title. It left them in sixth place, six points behind leaders Newcastle who were surprisingly held 1-1 at home by West Ham.

Newcastle looked to be heading for defeat until veteran Peter Beardsley equalised in the 82nd minute with his 200th league goal.

Newcastle suffered a major blow when they lost England striker Les Ferdinand with a depressed cheekbone as he challenged for the ball in the West Ham penalty area just before half-time.

Manager Kevin Keegan said afterwards Ferdinand could be out for a month to six weeks.

Liverpool pose the main threat to Newcastle following their almost clinical 2-0 win at Leeds which put them in second place just two points

behind with a match in hand.

Former England centre-half Neil Ruddock, making only his second start of the season, repaid manager Roy Evans's faith in him with a 13th minute goal. Stig Inge Bjorneby swung in a near-post corner which was flicked on by Robbie Fowler. Leeds marginally cleared the danger only for Ruddock to stab home his first goal of the season.

Liverpool stayed in control and it was no surprise when Steve McManaman raced clear in the last minute and waltzed around keeper Nigel Martin before slipping the ball into the net.

Wimbledon, third at the start of the day, missed their chance to move into second place when they were held 2-2 at home by lowly Coventry and slipped to fourth.

Chelsea, fielding new \$A9.52 million signing Gianfranco Zola, similarly failed to improve on their fifth place when they managed only a 1-1 draw at Blackburn.

RANGERS SPOIL CELTICS RUN

A solitary goal by Dane Brian Laudrup saved Paul Gascoigne's blushes as Rangers beat Celtic 1-0 in an extraordinary 'Old Firm' derby here last week.

In a match notable for two penalty misses, numerous wasted chances and the sight of a wild fox running across the pitch, Rangers were hugely grateful to Laudrup's composure in front of goal.

His right-foot shot from outside the box after seven minutes gave Rangers the perfect start but it took some magnificent goalkeeping from Andy Gorm to prevent Celtic securing at least a point.

Gorm plunged to his right to save a penalty from Pierre van Hooydonk with five minutes to go, having seen his Celtic counterpart Stuart Kerr make a much more

comfortable save from Gascoigne's tame spot-kick 17 minutes previously.

There was still time for an unaccountable miss by Dutchman Peter Van Vossen who blazed over an empty goal when unmarked close in. Van Vossen was clean through again in stoppage time, only for Kerr to smother the danger again.

"I don't think I've ever seen a game where we've had so many easy chances to score and missed so many," said Rangers manager Walter Smith, relieved by a victory which puts his team three points ahead.

A passionate crowd of 50,000 also saw six bookings, five of them for Celtic whose manager Tommy Burns was banished to the stands after a touchline altercation with an assistant referee.

A two-minute delay as the stray fox tried to find an escape route provided another diversion, but ultimately it was the visitors' tactics of hitting on the break which proved decisive. Champions for the past eight years, Rangers have now extended their unbeaten run against Celtic to eight matches.



Brian Laudrup: His goal difference between 'Old Firm' rivals

INVESTORS READY FOR CHELSEA

English Premier League club Chelsea announced last week it was lining up 30 million pounds (\$A63.00m) in financing to complete the redevelopment of their Stamford Bridge stadium.

Chelsea Village Plc, the company which owns the west London club, issued a statement saying that it was in discussion with several parties to secure the money.

The announcement helps to remove doubts about the club's financial position following the death of millionaire vice-chairman Matthew Harding in a

helicopter crash last month.

"As I speak, there are several big hitters who want to invest in Chelsea," chairman Ken Bates told the Evening Standard newspaper. "I have them lined up for the 30 million needed for the West Stand, the sports and leisure centre and the office block."

It is business as usual, as the signing of Gianfranco Zola for \$A9.44m this week has demonstrated.

Italian international Zola, who moved from Parma, joins an increasingly cosmopolitan squad managed by Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

CEO OF SFA SUMMONED TO EUFA

Scottish Football Association chief executive Jim Farry has been ordered to appear before FIFA's Disciplinary Committee and the SFA wants to know why.

In what appears to be the latest twist in the Estonia-Scotland match 'that never was', controversy, FIFA is considering whether Farry should be disciplined over the SFA's response to a ruling last week.

The Scots had hoped FIFA would award them a victory after Estonia failed to show for a World Cup qualifying game in Tallinn. Instead FIFA

ruled that the game should be re-organised and the SFA complained that the decision making committee should not have included a Swede, UEFA president Lennart Johansson, because Sweden is one of Scotland's rivals in the group.

"The SFA president Bill Dickie has received a communication indicating that our chief executive has been reported to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee," the SFA said in a statement today.

"The president responded by asking on what basis he was being reported but so far we have not received a response."

LEGAL ACTION THREAT

Arsene Wenger has threatened legal action if Britain's tabloids continue to print untrue stories about his private life or hint that he is thinking of quitting his job.

The 47-year-old French manager of English Premiership giant Arsenal hit out at what he described as the cowards who had been trying to tarnish his reputation and the reputation of the club. Wenger, who has been at Highbury for only six weeks, insisted he had no intention of quitting Arsenal.

Rumours regarding his private life, and stories suggesting Wenger was about to leave England, have been



Arsene Wenger: Threatening England's gutter press with legal action

rife in the British newspapers. Speaking on Sky TV after his side's 5-2 Cup win over Stoke, he said: "I'm very disappointed with the attitude of the Press."

"I've been in the public eye for 25 years and there has never

been a problem. I don't know who has been behind all this, but in future I shall not hesitate. I shall sue those responsible."

"These stories are just a joke and strengthen my will to fight for Arsenal and for the respectability of Arsenal and for the future of Arsenal."

INTER SAVED BY INCE

England's Paul Ince saved Internazionale on Saturday with a late equaliser to force a 2-2 draw with Fiorentina.

Inter, riding high after a 3-0 rout of European champions Juventus in the Italian Cup were brought back to reality by a gritty Fiorentina who nearly stole three points from the Italian league leaders.

Brazilian-born Luis Oliveira, who plays for

Belgium, put the Florence club on top just before half-time and again in the 65th minute after Maurizio Ganz levelled in the 50th.

Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta set up both goals for Oliveira on the counter-attack, a tactic Fiorentina fully exploited on a rain-soaked pitch that disrupted Inter's attacks.

Inter, already missing Chilean marksman Ivan

Zamorano and striker Marco Branca, appeared to have reached the end of the line when French playmaker Youri Djorkaeff hobbled off injured 10 minutes from time.

But a gutsy Ince, who scored against Juventus, beat Italy goalkeeper Francesco Toldo with an angled blast from the corner of the area in the 83rd minute.

BOSNICH FINED AND CENSURED

Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has escaped with a \$A2120 fine over his Nazi-style salute to Tottenham fans in the recent match at White Hart Lane. Hewas found guilty of misconduct by a three man Football Association Commission at Lancaster Gate on Friday.

Football Association spokesman Steve Double said: "A Football Association disciplinary committee today found Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich guilty of



Mark Bosnich: Guilty of misconduct fined, censured and warned

misconduct for giving a gesture to the crowd during the match at Tottenham Hotspur on October 12.

"The Commission heard that Bosnich had been subjected to abusive chanting from the home crowd before the incident in the 48th minute.

"Bosnich told the Commission that his gesture to the crowd was intended as a Basil Fawlty style joke. He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident."

Double added: "He stated

that he abhorred racism. The Commission decided that, while Bosnich's action was an act of stupidity, it was not his intention to cause offence or be insulting."

"He apologised publicly, quickly and profusely. He was ordered to pay a \$A1000 fine, severely censured, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay the costs of the hearing."



PSG DOWNED BY BORDEAUX

Jean-Pierre Papin scored twice and his Argentine substitute Claudio Baggio the fourth goal as Bordeaux beat Paris St-Germain 5-3 to leave the leaders just three points clear of Monaco in the French league on Saturday.

Patrice Loko, who now fills the striker role in France's national team that Papin once graced, struck twice as PSG fought back to pull level 2-2 at

the interval.

Papin, who opened the score in the fourth minute, added a penalty in the 52nd after Johan Micoud's second goal for Bordeaux on the half-hour.

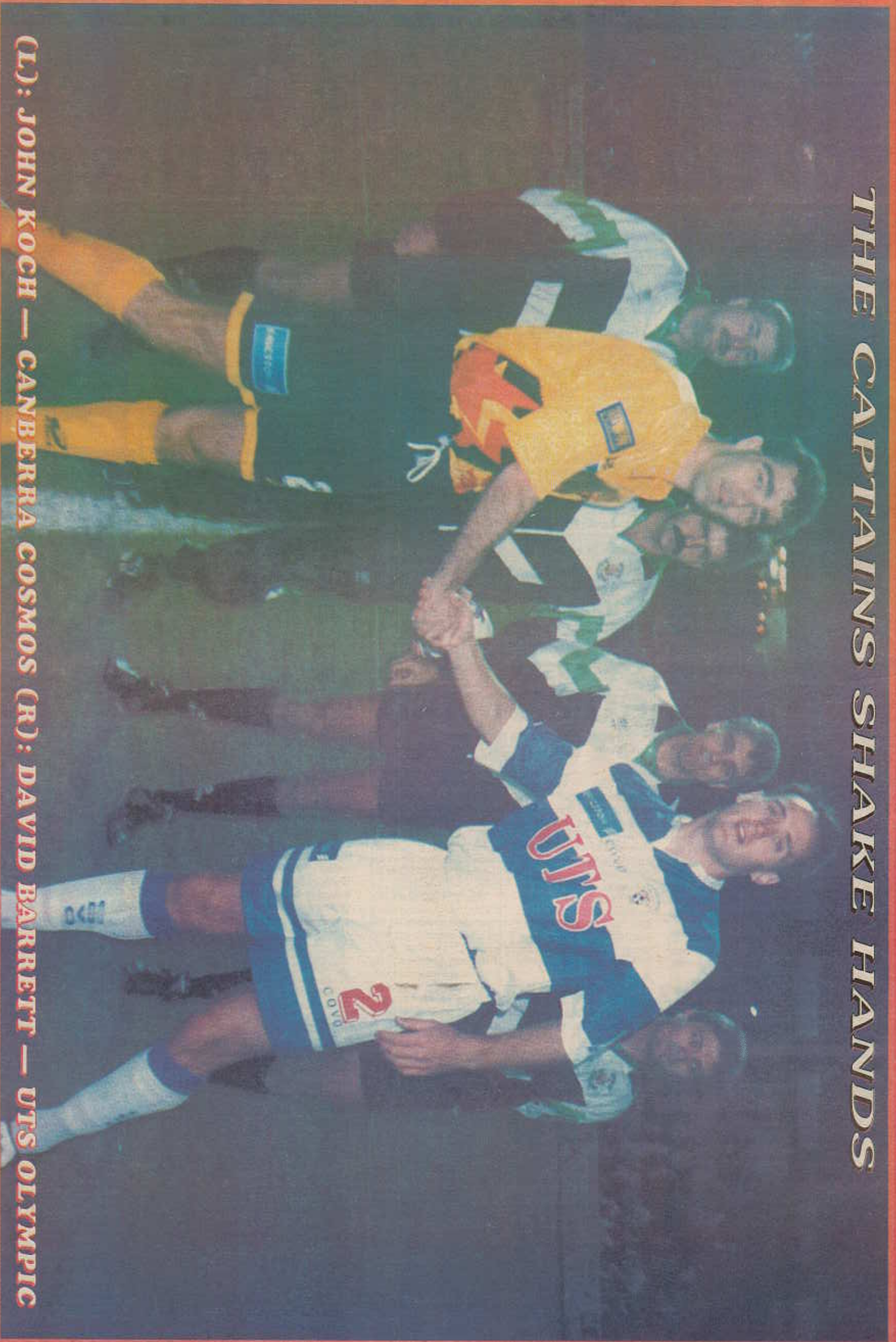
Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes hit another PSG equaliser in the 62nd minute, but Biaggio put Bordeaux ahead again with a fine goal in the 74th, minutes after coming on for Papin, and laid on a fifth six minutes from time for

Kaba Diawara.

Teenager Thierry Henry scored two minutes from time to give Monaco a 1-0 win at lowly Caen, while champions Auxerre crashed 1-0 at Rennes to a goal by the first division's 13-goal top scorer Stephane Guivarc'h.

Bordeaux leapt over Auxerre to third, ahead of Bastia, 2-1 winners at home to Metz, on goal difference. Both are on 30 points, five behind Monaco.

THE CAPTAINS SHAKE HANDS



(L): JOHN KOCH — CANBERRA COSMOS (R): DAVID BARRETT — UTS OLYMPIC